The Chicago Tribune.

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WASHINGTON.

Some of Colonel Forney's Reasons for Resigning His Collectorship.

Good Prospect of the House Amnesty Bill Passing the Senate.

A Favorable Report Expected Relative to the Illinois Two Per Cent Claim.

Schemes of Speculators to Obtain Lands in the Indian Territory.

Cartridges Made for the French in United States Arsenals During the Late War.

Special Despatch to the Chicago Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Judge Wilson, of Indiana, of the Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the memorial of the Governors of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, asking that the 2 per cent claim for the sale of public lands might be at once adjusted, in a speech has foreshadowed the report from the Committee, which will be favorable to the payment. Judge Wilson went over the whole legal ground of the case, and showed that the Government had lost as yet connected with the lands so far as the States named are concerned. Judge Wilson has gained high standing among his associates on this Committee, and the report, when made, will carry much weight in the House.

FORNEY.

The resignation of Collector Forney excites great comment here. The first difference between Forney and the President arose from representations to the former that he was expected in his newspapers to oppose McClure strongly, and support Gray in the late contest in Philadelphia. This Forney absolutely refused to do in the style it was demanded that he should. Those who were in consultation with Collector Forney while here give out that his resignation indicates open hostility to General Grant on the part of one class of Pennsylvania politicians.

THE INDIAN LANDS.

The most numerous lobby that has gathered for any single purpose in Washington for a long time is now here, working to dispossess the Indians of their lands in their Territory. The whole movement is in the interest of railroads and land speculators. Various schemes are proposed, some of the shrewdest of which have been opposed by General Shanks, of Indiana, in his Committee on Indian Affairs, charged with the general investigation of these matters. The bills in question propose to make the Indians citizens. The point is this: that if they become citizens the title to their lands, as now held, would become null and void, and would be sold under the peculiar terms of the deed by which the lands were conveyed to them upon their settlement in the Indian Territory.

CLOTHING FRAUDS.

In the summer of 1865 the Departments were furnished with information of extensive frauds on the Government by a prominent and wealthy Boston firm, who, during the war, manufactured clothing, both in New York and Boston, making false tax returns to the Revenue Department. The Secretary of the Treasury detailed the Chief Clerk of one of the Auditors to investigate the matter. About the first week in July he visited New York and Boston, and after procuring sufficient evidence, in the shape of affidavits, &c., returned to Washington to report. By searching the records of the Treasury Department, it seems that the report was never made. The Boston firm secured the influence of a member of Congress, and one or two Government officials, and succeeded in stopping further action. An investigation now in progress promises to open the case to the public. It is reported that the same parties are largely indebted to the Quartermaster's Department.

PATENT CLAIM.

Mrs. Admiral Dahlgren has laid a claim before each house for the amount due from the Government to her late husband for the use of guns upon which he had a patent. This claim was fully recognized by the Navy Department, but previous to the Admiral's death he had made no collections.

A FRENCH INQUIRY.

Despatches from Paris, printed yesterday, assert that a Committee of the French Assembly has asked the United States to furnish certain evidence relating to sales of arms to the French Government during the late war, has caused a good deal of comment here. The late reply from the Ordnance Department to a resolution of the Senate, shows that Remington & Sons, known as Agents of the French Government, bought 50,000 Springfield rifled muskets, 4,527 Remington carbines, 17,500,000 Spencer cartridges, paying for all $1,200,000. Numerous contracts for arms were made through the Consul General at New York, and he has lately been tried for fraud in connection therewith. It further appears that, before the French Court which tried the Consul, statements were furnished in evidence which it was claimed, were furnished Remington by the United States Ordnance Office in the shop estimates for arms, to enable Remington to settle his account with the French Government. To this evidence the friends of the Consul strongly objected, and questioned its accuracy. The information here is that after the sentence of the Consul General, the matter came up before an investigating committee of the French Assembly, and hence the request to our Government to furnish the information, the request being based upon the belief that the extracts of estimates furnished were incorrect. The French authorities have become convinced that clerical frauds exist somewhere on this side of the water, and the purpose of the present investigation is to trace the matter. Some time since representations were made to the Ordnance Department by the French authorities concerning the matter, and one of these communications contains the following copy of a letter from Remington to show that the French were informed that our Government was not selling arms which could be manufactured at its works for the French:

NEW YORK, Dec. 15, 1870.

To John Lecesn, President of the Commission Armament:

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I have received your telegrams of the 10th and 11th, ordering the number of batteries to be reduced in number to thirty, and informing me of instructions to the Consul regarding the last credit to him of 4,000,000 francs, although at the time of the receipt of your telegram I had bought the whole number, and had paid the advance required of $50,000. The Government very kindly reduced the number to fifty, regarding the purchase of Springfields, I am sorry to say that the greatest number we may hope to get will not, I fear, exceed 40,000. The Government have never made but about 75,000 all told. 250,000 is the greatest number they think it prudent to spare. I may be able to procure more, depending upon an exchange of our arms at some future time for the number of breech-loading Springfields over and above the 40,000 they are willing to let go, with the very friendly feeling I find to aid France. I hope to be able to procure more cartridges, for these 40,000 will, in great measure, require to be made as the Government have but about 3,000,000 on hand; but the Government has consented to allow the remaining number of four hundred for each gun to be made, and the cartridge works have had orders given yesterday to increase their production to the full capacity of the works. This question of making cartridges at the Government works was a difficult one to get over. The price the Government will charge for the guns and cartridges will be "blank," or as near that as possible.

Signed S. REMINGTON.

I expected that the matter will be presented to the Senate to-morrow.

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[To the Associated Press.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Some Southern Senators, friends of amnesty, express themselves confident of the passage of Mr. Thurman's amendment, now lying on the senate table. While they admit that Senator Sumner will again offer his Civil Rights Amendment, they believe it will be found to be a sufficient number to vote on the latter question as not germane to the bill, and so defeat it by a strict party vote. Having made their record on that question, which was carried by the casting vote of the Vice President, they say its further consideration is unclear, as the Amnesty bill, which requires a two-thirds vote, cannot be passed with such a proviso as Sumner's. The Sumner amendment is out of the way, the bill, doubtless, can secure the requisite number of votes to pass it. The friends of amnesty are in high spirits at the prospect of success.

THE RUSSIAN MISSION.

General Banks has been much annoyed by the repetition of reports that he is to succeed Minister Curtin at St. Petersburg. He authorizes a positive denial of their truth, and says he has no wish to leave this country and the position he now occupies.

THE LATE GENERAL ANDERSON.

General Jeff C. Davis and General J. W. Crawford, two of the surviving officers of the Fort Sumter command, have left Washington for Baltimore to join the escort of the remains of General Anderson, and will proceed with them to West Point.

IRON SHIP-BUILDING.

The bill presented by Secretary Boutwell to the House Committee on Commerce, giving bounties to encourage iron ship-building, &c., as a means of reviving American commerce, is fully concurred in by Secretary Robeson, as his measure meets with little favor, and there is little prospects of its becoming a law.

NAVAL.

The United States steamer Iroquois, now fitting out at Philadelphia, mounts six guns, and will probably be assigned to the East India squadron.

APPOINTMENT.

The President has appointed Sayles J. Bowen, ex-Mayor of Washington, Minister to Ecuador.

NEW YORK.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

THE WAR SPIRIT.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—The Catholic Irish of this and adjoining cities are intensely excited over the difficulties with England, and seem confident there will be war. They are very anxious that there shall be, and are delighted with the idea. Fenian circles have been holding tumultuous meetings, passing violent resolutions, and pledging themselves to stand by their adopted country through thick and thin. They declare they can rouse at least one hundred thousand men in and about here within sixty days after the war is declared. Half a dozen Americans familiar with the sea have made arrangements to fit out privateers from this port at once in the event of hostilities beginning. It is believed that fifty privateers would leave here in two months, as there is any amount of capital and any number of sailors for such enterprises, which are extremely popular in this community.

[To the Associated Press.]

CATHOLIC PASTORAL.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—The pastoral of Bishop Bayley, of Newark, urges all Catholics to keep out of the International Society and all non-public schools of Jersey are virtually Protestant schools, to which it is impossible for Catholics to send children.

THE LATE ARCHBISHOP SPAULDING.

It is stated that the London *Tablet* announced, the very morning of his death, that Archbishop Spaulding was to be made a Cardinal.

THIS BLOSSOM CLUB

is embarrassed by the fact that $7,000 to $8,000 of its funds were in the Bowling Green Savings Bank. The failure of the bankers of course has not been paid, but they have generously promises to make good the deficiency within two weeks.

GERMAN CELEBRATION.

A large number of enthusiastic Germans celebrated to-night the anniversary of the first compulsory speech by the City of Paris to the German army at Versailles.

KILLS HER LANDLORD.

An Irishwoman named Mary Holland, killed her landlord, John Klumpp, at 504 East Seventeenth street, last evening, in a dispute over his late regulations concerning chopping wood, by striking him on the head with a hatchet. She was arrested, and claims that he first seized her by the hair and dragged her some distance.

BAR-ROOM MURDER.

John Henry, a bar-tender, was fatally shot last night in a lager beer saloon, on Sixth avenue, by Charles Garvin, who was arrested with his accomplice, Thomas Bennet, who drew a revolver upon George Henry, proprietor of the establishment.

DIED.

The wife of Chancellor Zabriski, of New Jersey, died yesterday.

JERSEY ITEMS.

The Hudson County, Jersey, Grand Jury has indicted three inspectors of Election for aiding in a false certificate, by which Dennis Reardon, Republican, was declared chosen to the Legislature.

The people of Paterson, N. J., are calling on Mayor Tuttle to resign, on account of alleged complicity in frauds on the Treasury.

CONKLIN GOING ABROAD.

Conklin, the defaulting Treasurer of the Market Savings Bank, left Toronto, last Monday, for Montreal, Halifax, and South America.

BURNED TO DEATH.

—The son and daughter of Mrs. Thomas, aged 21 and 13, perished in the fire in the First Ward of Scranton yesterday. The family were recently from Wales.

SILK WEAVERS' MEMORIAL.

A mass meeting of silk weavers, last evening, agreed to memorialize Congress for such a reduction of the tariff on imported silk goods.

REFORM RECOMMENDED.

The sub-Committee has made a report to the Committee of Seventy, showing vast increase in the last few years in the legal expenses of the city in opening streets, etc., and recommending immediate legislation to reform a system so liable to abuse.

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FOREIGN.

No New Developments Regarding the Alabama Claims Question.

Elections in Progress to Fill Vacancies in the French Assembly.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS QUESTION.

LONDON, Feb. 11.—The *Observer* says no answer is yet received from Washington to Earl Granville's communication concerning the Alabama claims. It is expected that the reply will not express a positive opinion on the question of indirect damages, but will urge that the point be referred to the Geneva Board of Arbitration.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—There are no new developments relative to the Treaty of Washington, although, as has been already stated, our Government is not disposed to modify its statement of the case. No formal reply can be made to Lord Granville's note to General Schenck until the text is received, which is expected near the close of this week.

There has been much interest but no marked excitement at the position of affairs, nor apprehension that even should England recede from the treaty results would follow more serious in their consequences than existed before it was negotiated. Nothing has even been hinted in official circles about strengthening our national defences to meet a possible contingency, and no one has publicly expressed an opinion that such measures would be necessary.

It is learned in Executive quarters that our Government is willing to abide by the result of the tribunal of arbitrators in all matters submitted to them, and will expect a corresponding degree of good faith on the part of the British Government.

FRANCE.

PARIS, Feb. 11.—The elections to fill vacant seats in the Assembly have commenced in the Provinces. In Corsica, where trouble was apprehended, the voting is going on quietly.

There is much agitation in Rouen and other cities against the proposal made in the Assembly to tax commercial transactions.

Petitions have been presented in the Assembly from merchants on the Loire, against the taxation of raw materials.

Marcel, Minister of Foreign Affairs, in reply to a deputation who waited on him for the purpose of securing the aid of the Government in the movement to relieve France from the occupation of the German troops, said the Government officially gives its concurrence, because the Germans, fearing that anticipating payment might indicate an intention on the part of France to have their revenge, the Germans might insist on occupying the departments for the stipulated time.

SOUTH AMERICA.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—The South American war steamer has arrived with dates from Rio Janeiro to Jan. 22.

The distinguished Brazilian statesman, Viscount Itaboraby, is dead.

The recent outbreak of famiticism in the town of Sandella, in the Argentine States, resulted in a fearful massacre. The Janchos, excited to frenzy by a man named Salume, made a sudden attack upon the foreigners. The latter, taken by surprise, were unable to defend themselves, and before the authorities could stop the slaughter fifty Europeans were killed. The assailants were then attacked by the troops. They fled, but were surprised, and sixteen shot and twenty-four taken prisoners.

ITALY.

ROME, Feb. 11.—General Sherman and Lieutenant Grant are expected here to-day, to remain about ten days. They then proceed to Naples, where they will re-embark on the United States fleet, under Admiral Alden.

The Mazzinian party made a public demonstration to-day to celebrate the anniversary of the proclamation of the Roman Republic. The proceedings were orderly, and there was no attempt to interfere with them by the authorities.

SPAIN.

MADRID, Feb. 11.—It is probable that the Radicals will refuse to vote in the forthcoming elections for the Cortes.

STATE LEGISLATURES.

ILLINOIS.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

NO QUORUM.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 10.—The Senate had no session this afternoon, and the House performed its usual Saturday afternoon farce. There was no quorum present, and, of course, the House, a rather important bill in relation to the County Courts was taken up, and an attempt was made to shove it through, while the majority were away. As usual, there was noise, rioting, and confusion. Points of order were raised at the rate of three a minute. The majority of the Cook County delegation were generally on the floor at the same moment, and there were never less than five men speaking at any one time. There were personal explanations, a fistic fight of the Judiciary Committee, and defence of its conduct. Constitutional questions were raised and left unsettled. It was himself gray hairs and advised years, while they did not endow certain members with wisdom, saved them from getting thrashed. One member said that another was not gentleman, and that one said the other did not know what a gentleman was. Two or three Senators were present, and appeared to enjoy the play. The galleries were fairly full. The curtain fell at 5 o'clock, the performance to recommence at half-past 1 next Saturday afternoon.

SUNDRY BILLS.

The various bills relating to the protection of inland streams have been made the order for Thursday. Legislation on this point is required by the Constitution, but although bills on this subject were introduced early in the session, nothing has been done concerning them. Mr. Miller, of St. Clair, whose constituency embraces a great number of mines, asks a hearing on the opportunity this morning, and has secured a hearing for the case he partly represents.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FARCE.

Another attempt will be made Monday or Tuesday to get rid of the Committee of the Whole, but it will fail, since the majority think that Committee so essential to prevent hasty legislation. How effective it is, yesterday's and to-day's proceedings show. The bills relating to the practice in courts of record, and the County Judge system were taken out of the Committee of the Whole before they had been considered there, and then were passed without consideration in the House, probably because they ought to have been considered in Committee. The rules require a bill to be read by sections in the Committee and in the House. Therefore it is read in neither. Between two steps one comes to the ground. These two recent special elections to be held on March 6th, to fill the following Legislative vacancies: State Senator from Macomb County, vice Gilbert Hathway, deceased; Representative from Jersey County, vice W. K. Bates, resigned; Representative from the Second District, Genesee County, vice Thomas Hurlbut, deceased; Representative from Third District Jackson County, vice John Langdon, deceased.

LOUISIANA.

Steamboat Collision—The Grand Duke's Movements.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 11.—The steamer Onachita River, with 1,500 bales of cotton, collided with the steamer Richmond, below at Twelve Mile Point, early this morning. The Sabine sunk in ten minutes. The Richmond was considerably damaged but rendered all the assistance possible, taking all the passengers and some three hundred bales of cotton off the Sabine. The Sabine will probably prove a total loss. The Richmond was so badly damaged that she had to return to this city for repairs.

The James Howard, with the Ducal party, is at Carrollton. She will come down to the city at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Regular Report of Proceedings.

SENATE.

Called to order at 10 a. m.

ABSENT.

Messrs. Dore, Egler, Jewett, Kerr, Lansing, McNutts, Vaughan, Veris, Woodard.

PRACTICE IN COURTS OF RECORD.

Senate bill 124, relating to practice in courts of record, having been reported from the House as passed with amendments, was, on motion of Mr. UNDERWOOD, taken up.

SURVEY OF TOWNSHIPS.

Mr. ALEXANDER, on leave, called up Senate bill 125, relating to permanent survey of townships, which was read a third time and passed—yeas, 30; nays, none.

SHERIFF'S REPORT.

Mr. DAGGETT, from the Committee on Canals, to whom had been referred the report of the Canal Commissioners, reported that it be laid on the table and 2,500 copies be printed.

Mr. STREVELL moved to amend by printing only 1,000 copies. The printing bill was becoming enormous.

Mr. DAGGETT hoped the amendment would not be adopted. The importance of the measure demanded publicity.

Mr. LANGLEY favored printing 2,500, which was adopted.

JURISDICTION OF JUSTICES.

Mr. BUSH, on leave, introduced a bill to increase the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace and Police Magistrates in cases of misdemeanor. Adopted. Ordered to a second reading.

ROAD AND BRIDGE BILL.

Consideration of the Senate Road and Bridge bill was, on motion of Mr. NICHOLSON, resumed, the amendments concurred in, and the bill ordered to a third reading.

COUNTY CONVICTS.

Mr. SOLOMON called up the bill giving County Boards the control of county convicts, and to provide work-houses for their employment, and some debate occurred on the first section, Mr. Chapman, of the Judiciary Committee, defending the action of the Committee in taking them from the control of the Sheriff, who was responsible for them.

Mr. PIERCE thought that a strict construction of the first section would make such convicts from the control of Sheriffs, who by law are responsible for them.

Mr. NICHOLSON explained that no such entire transfer of responsibility was contemplated, in which view Mr. FULLER concurred.

Mr. WHITNEY moved the question as to whether the fourth section, in the use of the terms "County Board" and "said Board," including their applications to County Commissioners and their applications, did not leave out such counties as supervisors, and thus prevent the system which they might have the proper power vested in a County Court.

Mr. UNDERWOOD moved its reference to the Senator from Macoupin (Mr. Solomon), who immediately reported a substitute, which was, after immediately explained, of which was adopted.

The bill ordered to a third reading.

Mr. MARSH, from the Committee on Public Buildings, reported on the bill for the completion of the south horn Normal University, and on the resolution authorizing the sale of Carbondale lands by the Governor, to add to finishing said building.

Mr. EDDY, from the Judiciary Committee, reported by bill in relation to divorce, alimony, and maintenance in certain cases of bigamy.

SCHOOL BILL.

On motion of Mr. FLAGG, the Senate School bill was postponed as the special order to Tuesday next, at 10 a. m., and to be continued from day to day until disposed of.

NEW BILLS.

Mr. ALEXANDER introduced a bill relating to boundary lines of counties, which was read the first time and referred to a second reading.

Mr. FLAGG introduced a bill to provide for the establishment of County Industrial Schools. Read a first time and referred.

Adjourned to Monday at 10 a. m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In the Whole.

Mr. RICE, of Peoria, offered an amendment to the rule, in order to get rid of the Committee of the Whole.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

Mr. VENNUM offered a resolution authorizing the Committee on Contingent Expenses to terminate the leases of committee-rooms, and to discharge committee clerks by Feb. 15.

The resolution was adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The bills on the subject of the protection of coal miners were made a special order for Thursday morning.

The Chancery Practice act was read the third time.

Mr. PHELPS moved to recommit the bill to the Committee of the Whole, since it had never been considered there, or in the House.

Mr. KEECE supported the motion, seeing some very objectionable things in the bill, and several radical changes in chancery practice.

Mr. ROGT also favored the motion.

Mr. MORRISON (Cook) said he would vote against the bill if not fairly considered.

The motion to recommit was lost. The bill was passed—yeas, 105; nays, —.

COUNTY COURTS.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the bill to define the powers, duties, and jurisdiction of County Courts.

Mr. DWIGHT did not think the bill at all needed.

Messrs. HERDMAN and FREW thought its passage was imperatively demanded by the people.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

COUNTY COURT BILL.

In the afternoon session of the Committee of the County Court bill was resumed, no quorum being present. Jurisdiction in civil cases was reduced from $1,000 to $500.

Mr. RYAN moved that the Committee rise, sincethey were attempting, without a quorum, to act on important bills. Lost.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM moved to strike out the clause, giving jurisdiction in crimes not punished by Penitentiary.

Mr. BARR offered a substitute, giving concurrent jurisdiction with Circuit Courts in civil cases not exceeding $500, except those involving title to land. Carried.

Consideration of the bill was finished, and it was reported back, and made the special order for Tuesday afternoon.

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

Mr. SPRINGER introduced a bill defining the law of libel, allowing proof that alleged libel was true, testimony before a Coroner's inquest, and allowing testimony that a defamation was published as proof of absence of malice.

Mr. REA introduced the Congressional Apportionment bill, and it was read the first time.

COOK COUNTY DELINQUENT TAXES.

Mr. HARR moved that his bill for the collection of the delinquent taxes of Cook County be made the special order for Monday afternoon.

Mr. BURLEY moved a call of the House.

Mr. HARR moved to adjourn. Lost—yeas, 32; nays, 37.

Mr. HARR's motion was lost—yeas, 40; nays, 23. Adjourned.

WISCONSIN.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

MADISON, Wis., Feb. 10.—There was but a small attendance of members in either House of the Legislature this morning—not enough to pass appropriation bills. After a few minutes in the Senate, and one of the usual length in the Assembly, both Houses adjourned till Monday evening.

The Senate concurred in the Senate joint resolution for the co-operation of the Governor with our Congressmen to secure the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers improvement by Congress.

Bills were introduced amending Chapter 184, Revised Statutes, in regard to the dead; appropriating $130,000 for the erection of a corner building, the purchase of fixtures and furniture, and permanent improvements at the Northern Wisconsin Hospital for the Insane; providing for the appointment of Deputy Sheriffs in every Assembly District where there is an incorporated village.

The Assembly adopted resolutions directing the Quartermaster-General to make provisions for a camp of Wisconsin soldiers here next summer, at the time of the meeting of the Army of the Tennessee; also, directing an inquiry of the Committee on Education relative to the expediency of requiring the attendance of children at school a given number of months in each year. Bills were introduced to extend to Oshkosh Hospital the provision of the existing law for the government of the Wisconsin Hospital for the Insane; to extend the time for the return of votes from Saturday to Tuesday; to regulate the sale and dispensing of medicines and defining the qualifications of apothecaries; providing for appeals from a decision of a local Justice to a Board of three Justices, whose decision shall be final when the sum does not exceed $50; to make the Secretary of the State Board of Charities a permanent officer, and fixing his salary at $2,000; to facilitate the organization of Hog-drivers' associations; authorizing action against foreign Insurance Corporations in the Courts of this State; providing that the cost of keeping persons in jail on civil process shall be paid by those retaining them there; making chattel mortgages good for two years, instead of one.

The Temperance bill was reported back, with some amendments, and 2,500 copies of it and the report in the future ordered printed.

A Senate bill was concurred in to make a school year 160 days.

Assembly bills passed relative to evidence in certain cases, and to repeal Chapter 22 of the laws of 1869; to amend Chapter 55 of the general laws of 1858, in relation to removals from office.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 11.—A series of financial bills have been introduced in the Legislature declaring valid all State bonds of South Carolina included in the Treasurer's report of Oct. 31, 1871, and pledging anew the faith and credit of the State for their redemption, providing for the immediate registry of all such bonds in New York or Columbia, and prohibiting any further issue of new bonds for any purpose whatever, unless sanctioned by a direct two-thirds vote of the people of the State. Also, to adjust and liquidate all loans heretofore effected for the State by the financial agent in New York. It is expected that the passage of these bills will complete the work of the session.

A most stringent enactment passed the Senate, and is pending in the House, enforcing the collection, within ninety days, of overdue taxes, amounting to $1,100,000, and a new tax of four mills is to be levied to pay the interest on the State debt.

COLORADO.

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The Temperance bill was reported back, with some amendments, and 2,500 copies of it and the report in the future ordered printed.

A Senate bill was concurred in to make a school year 160 days.

Assembly bills passed relative to evidence in certain cases, and to repeal Chapter 22 of the laws of 1869; to amend Chapter 55 of the general laws of 1858, in relation to removals from office.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 11.—A series of financial bills have been introduced in the Legislature declaring valid all State bonds of South Carolina included in the Treasurer's report of Oct. 31, 1871, and pledging anew the faith and credit of the State for their redemption, providing for the immediate registry of all such bonds in New York or Columbia, and prohibiting any further issue of new bonds for any purpose whatever, unless sanctioned by a direct two-thirds vote of the people of the State. Also, to adjust and liquidate all loans heretofore effected for the State by the financial agent in New York. It is expected that the passage of these bills will complete the work of the session.

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Candidates for Positions on the Republican State Ticket.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., Feb. 7.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

SIR: The time is drawing near when the Republican party of Indiana will assemble in State Convention for the purpose of selecting candidates for the various State offices to be filled at the coming election. The present outlook of affairs in this State is quite favorable for the Republican party. If the party shall succeed in making a good ticket on the 22d of this month, success is almost assured; but, to make success certain the ticket must be composed of men of character, whose political antecedents are not such as to afford vulnerable points of attack for the opposite party. The friends of the different candidates are becoming more active as the time of nomination approaches, and a good many men are spoken of for the various positions.

GOVERNOR.

For the position of Governor, the Hon. Godlove S. Orth, the Hon. Richard Thompson, Generals Harrison, Veach, Brown, and Kimball, are among the names mentioned. Mr. Orth has had the inside track, I think it would be exceedingly difficult to fell at the present writing. Orth is said to be strong, and particularly so in the northern part of the State, and his record is clear and his ability unquestioned, which is also the case, doubtless, with the others mentioned.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

Several names have been mentioned in connection with the position, but I believe it is to be pretty generally conceded, that the nomination will be given to Colonel Isaac P. Gray, if he will accept. He is a very fine presiding officer, having been President *pro tem.* of the Senate for two sessions. He possesses energy, force of character, unyielding integrity, and is one of the best public speakers in the State. The office is all sacrifice and no pay; the pay being the same only, as State Senator. The candidate, however, is expected to canvass the whole State, the same as the candidate for Governor. Colonel Gray is a prominent candidate for Congress in his district; but his friends assert that he will not decline the nomination for the Lieutenant Governorship, if tendered him.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

I have as yet seen but one name mentioned in connection with this office, that of Colonel Nelson Trader. He was the Republican candidate for the place two years ago, and, like the remainder of that Republican ticket, went "where the woodbine twineth."

SECRETARY OF STATE.

But little has been said in regard to this office; so little indeed as to make it impossible to even guess who will be the nominee.

AUDITOR OF STATE.

This is decidedly the most lucrative office in the State. It will not, however, be quite so profitable in the future, owing to the fact that the Supreme Court has sustained the constitutionality of the law, passed at the last session of the Legislature, distributing the school funds. Still, the fees from insurance companies, and other perquisites of the office, will, perhaps, leave it yet worth something like $12,000 per year. Quite an array of names are being heralded over the State for this place. It is the public teat that gives the pure, unadulterated, Short Horn Durham cream; and, the friends of each candidate aver that their candidate possesses peculiar qualif

THE FARM AND GARDEN.

Plows and Plowing--A Revolving Plow-Fender.

The Use of Cast Steel in Place of Iron--Sward-Plowing.

Silky Gang Plow and Riding Cultivators--The Chemistry of Farming.

From Our Agricultural Correspondent.

CHAMPAIGN, Ill., Feb. 10.

There is much inquiry in regard to PLOWS AND PLOWING.

Many of these have had replies by mail, but of late they have become too numerous to admit of this, and we will take up the subject from the present stand-point. This is done the more willingly on account of the thousands of new readers of THE TRIBUNE who have not been posted on this subject, and yet I must confess that there are some new things that I desire to take into consideration.

In purchasing a new stubble-plow, the first thing that the farmer looks at is the height of he beam from the ground, that the rubbish may be cleared from it, and not choke up. The other day, Major Webber, a farmer of Marshall County, showed me a little simple contrivance, that he calls a revolving fender, that will clear all the rubbish, weeds, stubble, wild morning-glory, vines, and all that sort of trash, from the plow, even when the beam is low, or just high enough to clear the furrow-slice. But this is only one of its advantages, for it will allow of a shorter standard, and this will reduce the power to move it; as every farmer knows that a low-beam plow has a lighter draft, is held easier, and is the best in all respects, in land clear of rubbish, that is liable to choke it up. Others, then, is a point for improvement in the form of the plow, for two reasons: In the first place, a low-built plow will bear a greater resistance than the Standagh; consequently, it can be made lighter and stronger, for it will not only require less pounds of iron and less size of wooden beam. And this leads me to the inquiry, Why not use all cast steel in the construction of a plow? It is a great saving of strength and suffer than iron, and could be used of much less size for the same purpose. The large bolts that pass through the beam or mould-board are a ready corresponding to their size; hence, the smaller the bolts, the smaller may be the beam. If you can reduce the bolt one-fourth of an inch, you may reduce the thickness of the beam one-fourth, and the saving of a dozen or more per pound than iron, it will require less pounds for the same work, and then the cost of the wood is also reduced. Cast steel is now being used for the mould-board, as it is found that the size of the narrow-teeth may be much less, and the harrow may have a wider spread without adding to the weight, and these are enhanced in its capacity for work. Our plows are all too heavy; but, with the use of iron, it has been found difficult to make them lighter and yet have them capable of the resistance they meet in striking sunken boulders and roots. The use of casteel would make a most decided change, and more especially when we are enabled to lower the by its porosity and color, admits air and attracts heat, while the rain-fall readily passes through it. And thus prepared is admirably adapted to corn, oats, and flax. For spring wheat and barley, the land must be plowed the previous autumn, while potatoes do rather better on such land the first season, though I have had good crops the first year. I now make it a rule to stop breaking sward-land as soon as it becomes dry; for, in that condition, it requires nearly double the power to do the work. I allow the weather and the condition of the soil to be the arbiters of my corn crop. Last year I planted thirty acres all old land. No sward was broken, for the reason that it was too dry. Had there been heavy rain-falls, so as to stop work on the old land, the teams would have been put on trench-plowing of either prairie or timothy sward for corn. I hold this sward-land in reserve for this purpose; for it is often the case that we cannot plant old land in wet weather, without this sward-land, the teams must be idle; and, besides this, in a wet season sward-land thus treated will produce more than old land, while, in a dry season it is the reverse. This system of preparing land for corn must come into general use in all the prairie country, when we shall have a rotation of grass, corn, and the small grains. That a three-horse sulky gang-plow must play an important part in this programme is also certain; but these plows must be made lighter than as at present, and the plow-wheel must be reduced in width.

The double Michigan plow went out of use on account of the power required to draw it; but it did the work in the best manner, and to it we are indebted for the idea of trench-plowing. I have no doubt that a modification of that plow, properly combined with such a plow as that of Skinner's, would be found useful for this purpose. We may look for improvements in this new style of plow, in order to better fit them for sward-plowing, for which they are especially adapted. So soon as they come into more general use, the price will be materially lessened. A boy of a dozen years can drive a good sulky plow all day, and do as much work as a man with a common walking plow; while, with the walking plow, he could neither do good work nor a day's work. One of my neighbors has used one of these sulky plows four years, in all kinds of work, and would not think of doing without it. The wheels of this plow are too small, and the whole is unnecessarily heavy; yet he contends that the draught is little, if any, greater than with a common plow. With first-class timber and cast steel, these plows every one made so light and so cheap that they will come into general use.

For the past two years the demand has been for walking cultivators, mainly from the fact that sulky cultivators cost too much, and I predicted that, as soon as this objection was removed, they would again come into general use. I have letters from several manufacturers, who say they have Minister on hand to meet desired result, and that riding cultivators will be put on the market at an advance of from $5 to $10 over the walking cultivators, and that the demand from this source will be larger than usual. So much for a reasonably cheap article. The fact is, with corn at the present rates, farmers cannot afford to pay $60 or $65 for a sulky cultivator, when they can get one for a walking one, and the same holds good, to some extent, with the sulky plows. A good single sulky plow, with rolling cutter, costs $65, while a first-class walking plow, with rolling cutter, costs about $30.

THE CHEMISTRY OF FARMING.

We have placed too much reliance on what chemists have taught us in regard to manures, and their assertions for plant-food, and have lost sight of the effect of the mechanical condition of the soil. I have the analysis of the soil of this farm, and also of soil from the Rocky Mountain districts, taken from a garden in Greeley. One appears like a friable clay loam, while the other is a coarse, sandy soil. On analysis, they both present the same amount of silica, and only differ in the quantity of alkalois. In one, the silica is in the condition of a firm powder, as shown under the microscope; while the other is a coarse sand. In some of the minor details, the analysis is not completed, as it will be in the course of a few days. Those experiments, as thousands of others do, show that it is not so much the elements of a soil, or its mechanical condition, that makes it more or less value. For this reason, we want a plow that will do more than simply turn over the furrow-slice; one that will comminute it at the same time. We must study practical science with the aid of natural philosophy and vegetable physiology. Last week, a farmer assured me that all there was required to make a passable crop was the clover as to sow on plaster, for then the clover would come in anyhow, or no seeding would be required. This is of a piece with the mania for feeding iron in order to supply life plants with iron, as doctors supply iron to the blood of invalids. The iron filings will pass off with the excrements, as will in relation to the clover seed. Why not supply the

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MAYOR HALL.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—Oakey Hall's friends say that when he is arraigned for trial he will prove conclusively that he has done nothing but what is entirely legitimate. They add that he is prepared for defence; that he has been expecting indictment for weeks, and will triumphantly vindicate himself, as he is grounded on justice and law, having had the ablest legal counsel respecting the matter. It is reported that his mind was some time since made up to resign the Mayoralty, and he would have resigned had he not learned of an intention to indict him. Tweed, Connolly, Sweeny, and Hall have all despaired of Tammany, which means the Republic as them, and every one of them, according to their intimates, will quit the city and country, as soon as they are entirely out of present troubles. Persons claiming to know say Hall is much wealthier than has been supposed; that he has made from $300,000 to $500,000 a year, since he has been Mayor, and is now worth over $2,000,000. He himself states his entire property inside of $250,000.

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The latest private advices from Albany seem to corroborate the belief that William M. Tweed will be unable to obtain his Senatorial seat, owing to an unwillingness, through dread of exposure, of the two Republican Senators to sell out, as they agreed to when they thought they could do so without discovery.

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The Committee investigating Pacific Mail matters has reason to believe it will discover enormous frauds against stockholders.

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was quieter to-day, and unmarked by excitement, the news from London being more favorable, and a reaction has set in from the excitement of the past week over the Alabama arbitration question. The reports from the German markets, however, still show an unsettled feeling, and have had considerable effect on operations here.

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The bank statements for the week shows a large loss in specie and a steady movement in legal tenders. The market was easy for call loans at 6@7 per cent on miscellaneous, collateral; and exceptional loans, on pledge of Government bonds, have been made at 5 per cent. First-class approved commercial paper is quoted at 7@8 per cent.

Gold fluctuated from 110¾@110¾ during the day, under the news from Germany, and closed at 110¾, while from 5 to 5½ per cent was paid for carrying gold loans. Later in the day gold borrowers were freely accommodated with money at 5 per cent.

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Flour was firmer and more active for the low grades, with some demand for shipping brands. There was but little doing in wheat, the arrivals being limited and prices unsettled, while holders are asking a further advance. There has been a brisk demand for corn, chiefly for export, though the advance in freights has somewhat checked business.

[To the Associated Press.]

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1872.

NO NEW CHARTER FOR CHICAGO.

In our telegraphic despatches from Springfield of Friday will be found the following:

The Committee on Municipal Affairs decided, by a vote, to strike out of the City Incorporation bill everything in reference to Chicago, or failing to make it apply only to cities having less than 100,000 people. Since it is plainly impossible to pass any bill for a charter to cover over three cities in number, it appears that the Committee are of the opinion that the charter of the City of Chicago is well enough as it is.

The bill referred to is one that the Senate Committee spent a long time in maturing last winter, as well as this winter. After very full discussion and consideration, it passed the Senate by a nearly unanimous vote,—the four Cook County Senators voting for it.

There are many excellent and valuable provisions in the bill, particularly in regard to the powers of the Mayor, and the authority it gives the Council to reform city administration. It is probably the best general incorporation bill that has yet been produced in any Legislature. No city is forced to become incorporated under it, but may, by a majority vote of its citizens, surrender its old charter and accept this general incorporation law. Yet it appears that the citizens of Chicago are to be excluded from this right. If the new general charter is better than our present patch-work charter, our citizens are to be deprived of the privilege of making the change and adopting the superior organic law.

What is the cause of this singularly arbitrary decision of the Committee on Municipal Affairs? Is it because the general charter gives the Common Council power to dispense with all or any of the numerous "Boards of Irresponsibility" which we now have; or to reduce the number of their members, or otherwise change or reform them? The new charter does not require that any or all of the existing Boards shall be abolished, but simply gives the people, acting through the Common Council, the power of doing so. Is there anything wrong in that?

What right has this Committee or Municipal Affairs to exclude Chicago from the operations of this law? Why say to every other city in the State (except Chicago), you can adopt this new charter, but Chicago shall not have the privilege of doing so.

The Committee must have concluded that the Chicago charter is all that Chicago needs; but the Chicago people might be of a different opinion. The Chicago people might say, if the new charter gives the Common Council the power to confer on the Mayor the right to appoint and remove various officers, including members of Boards, which it does, "We much prefer it to the old charter, which makes the Mayor a mere figure-head to a City Government for the administration of which he is held responsible." But the Municipal Committee have undertaken to throttle this right of self-government.

The people might conclude that, if the new charter gives the power to get rid of the Board of Public Works, the Board of Police, and the Board of Health, and gives the power to appoint one person to perform the duties which three or more persons are now required, as a Board, to perform, whereby a responsibility, certain and undoubted, could be fixed, that it might be a good thing to do.

That the Chicago charter, which has been amended and tinkered by every General Assembly which has met since 1856, has become incongruous in many respects, and abounds in obscurities and contradictions, is known to nearly every one; yet this Committee hold that is "well enough as it is"—for the Chicago people. The Constitution prohibits the passage of any law amending the charter of any city, and if this city is not included in the operation of the general law, it must retain its present charter, with all its ills and deformities. If this general law was to be imposed upon the cities of this State without the consent of the voters of the city, a legislator would be justified in determining that the Chicago charter was better than the general law; but, as the bill does NOT impose, but leaves it to the voters of the electors of each city to adopt it or not as they may choose, we insist that there is no justification for the attempt to deprive the people of this city of the right to adopt it if they wish so to do.

THE ALDERMANIC CASES.

The action of Judge McAllister, in granting a *supersedeas* in the case of Alderman Busse, convicted of having solicited a bribe, is but the exercise of a power properly vested in members of the Supreme Court for wise and excellent purposes. The granting of this writ amounts legally to a suspension of the sentence until such time as the Supreme Court can pass upon the appeal made by the defendant in the case. This proceeding is by no means unprecedented; it has been exercised in countless cases. We say this much to disabuse those who may assume that this is an act of extraordinary power, specially interposed in behalf of the convicted Aldermen. The Supreme Court was in session when the Glade case was taken up, and that body refused a *supersedeas*. Glade was convicted of having received money direct. Busse was convicted of having conspired with others to demand a bribe, and the evidence was, that he told Goggin that Alderman Walsh would come to see him to arrange terms for carrying the job through. The Court admitted testimony as to what took place between Walsh and Goggin, and Busse was convicted. The cases of Glade and Busse were not alike.

We do not understand that Judge McAllister in any way seeks to defeat the ends of justice, or to deny that official bribery is to be punished; the Supreme Court has settled that, in the Glade case. But persons accused of bribery are entitled equally with all other persons to such means of defence as the law may permit. All criminals have the right to an appeal from a supposed erroneous legal decision which has resulted in their conviction. Pending the hearing of this appeal, it is not unreasonable to suspend the execution of the sentence. In the case of a man sentenced to death, this *supersedeas* is essential, because otherwise the man might be hanged before his appeal would be heard. In Busse's case the hearing can not be until the next term of the Supreme Court, by which time his term of imprisonment would be nearly, if not quite, expired.

It is important that the law relating to criminal prosecutions for bribery shall be definitely settled. By popular demand, prevailing in all parts of the country, such prosecutions are hereafter to form a regular part of the proceedings of every Criminal Court, and bribery is to be punished as much, as a matter of course, as larceny, forgery, or any other offence against society. The prosecutions of Chicago Aldermen, and of officers of all degrees, who may use their official place for corrupt purposes, are not to stop with the effort making to reach present and past Aldermen, but, whenever the occasion calls for it, is to be renewed against every dishonest official. Therefore, we had better have the law as it is fully ascertained, that, if there be any defects in it, they may be remedied by legislation. It is just to the public and to the officers that the degree of responsibility of the latter, in the way of criminal prosecutions, may be fully understood.

In the matter of these Aldermanic prosecutions, the outraged public justice has been to some extent vindicated. It has been demonstrated by legal investigation that a controlling majority of the Common Council used their offices to blackmail the public; that no legislation, however proper, in which any person or corporation was interested was allowed to pass unless that person paid for the votes to pass it; that, whenever an occasion offered, the corrupt would initiate measures hostile to certain persons, and then demand to be bought off for a liberal price; that there was a regular clearing-house in which the Aldermanic pools were deposited; that at least in one case $1,000 were distributed among nineteen Aldermen for their votes. A number of these persons, present and former Aldermen, have been indicted. Therehave been three convictions, The great point gained was in the Glade case, where the public had the satisfactory judgment that an Alderman was amenable to the laws against bribery; that Grand Juries could be found who would indict, and Petit Juries who would convict, and Courts who would sentence; and that these proceedings were affirmed by the judgment of the Supreme Court of the State. Three months ago, such a result was supposed to be among the impossibilities; to-day, every man feels more secure in his property and rights, from the now-established fact that a dishonest Alderman may be punished for his official misconduct. The insolence and corruption which have hitherto been protected by irresponsibility stand rebuked, and the victory for the public is a great one. The public care nothing for Aldermen as such; they do not care whether the punishment be in jail or the penitentiary; the great victory is, that punishment can be inflicted. With respect to those yet to be tried, we suppose public justice demands that there shall be no discrimination,—that all shall be treated with equal justice. It is not to be disguised, however, that the list of indicted is by no means complete; that many, and some of the most offensive, cases have never been reached. That some persons have escaped, or will escape, is no reason why those whose guilt is established should not be convicted. Once punished by this official judgment, the public care very little what becomes of the Aldermen personally. The great point in which the public feel the most concern has been gained. Hereafter, men who get into the Board of Aldermen will remember that they may and can be indicted, convicted, and personally degraded, for any corruption of which they may be guilty.

THE CUSTOM HOUSE BLOCK.

The award of the Commissioners in the matter of the Custom House block was published yesterday. The gross sum demanded by the owners was $2,080,000. That awarded by the Commissioners is $1,667,112.50.

The law of Congress authorized and required the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase that block if the same could be had at private sale, or otherwise, at a fair price. The Commission appointed by the United States Court was a most excellent one; men well versed in the values of property, having no interest in the proceeding; and they called to their aid a large number of persons skilled in the value of real estate. The result is the award stated. There can be no two opinions as to the substantial justice of the award. It is as near an estimate of a fair price for that land, respecting, of course, all speculative values, as can be had. That being the fair price of the land, can the Secretary, or will the Secretary of the Treasury, decide not to take it? The law fixes no sum to be paid, nor does it institute any comparisons as to the value of that and adjoining blocks; it requires that the Secretary shall purchase that block if he can do so at a fair price. The fact that other blocks can be had for less money does not bear in the least on the value of this block. A mile distant, whole blocks may be had for the value of a fifty-foot lot in this block. This is, perhaps, the most valuable block in the city. The owners are by no means anxious to part with it at the price designated; and is it not worth its value to the Government as well as to individuals? This award will now be sent to Washington, and in a few days we may expect the decision of the Treasury Department thereon.

FEES AND SALARIES.

The House of Representatives at Springfield has passed the bill regulating the fees and salaries of certain officers. The bill has to go to the Senate, where it will be amended, and several weeks may yet elapse before it becomes a law. This question is not without difficulties, but those difficulties have been greatly increased by the theory that has prevailed in the Legislature that every officer must have a certain amount of salary, without reference to the duties performed. Thus the effort has been to make the fees large enough so that, in counties where there is but little business done, the officers will still get large pay. It is too often the case that members of the Legislature are the personal representatives of the office-holders in their respective districts, and do not hesitate to levy any taxes required by them. It would be a great benefit if we had but one-third of the officials who are now quartered upon the public, and a still further benefit if the compensation of these offices was confined to mere compensation, and not extended to large profits. We would have purer politics; there would be a better class of persons in office; and there would be less interference by officials to secure Nominating Conventions. One of the most difficult things in government is to abolish sinecures and reduce the profits of office-holding. Though the Constitution of the State peremptorily returns this of the Legislature, that body has for over a year avoided and postponed the subject. While the Legislature did not hesitate a moment in limiting the salary of the Judges of the Supreme Court to $4,000 a year, it had not the moral courage to attack the fees of a Town Collector, who, for two months' services, pocketed from $15,000 to $30,000. One reason is, that the Town Collector is generally potential in a ward caucus, while the Judge is not.

This fee and salary question has been a grievous trial to the office-holders. If the bill be anything like it ought to be, there will be weeping among those who have hither arrogated to themselves all political authority in their counties. But the State will survive the calamity, even if the great majority of these officers should resign.

THE ABUSES IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The investigation of the abuses in the Fire Department, in connection with the pending consideration of a more stringent fire ordinance in the Common Council, is timely. The most perfect fire ordinance that could be devised would be practically of no service to the community with an inefficient Fire Department. No ordinance can prevent fires. At best it can only check the destructive spread of fire by aiding the Fire Department to work more efficiently; but, as long as it is the practice of the department not to exert itself to extinguish fires, the ordinance will only prove inoperative, however carefully it may be framed. The investigation which Mr. Talcott has set on foot has at the very outset demonstrated that our Fire Department is rotten all through. Discipline and respect for superiors, which are the first elements of success, do not exist at all, and some of the superiors themselves are shown to be men incapable of commanding respect. At fires there have been no concert of action, no obedience to orders, and utter unconcern whether the fire spread or not. During the administration of Mr. Harris, a fireman who questioned his orders, or who refused to obey promptly, either found himself sprawling upon the ground by a vigorous application of the old Chief's trumpet, or was sent home in disgrace and subsequently discharged from the department. Under the present administration, however, engineers, pipemen, drivers, and stokers have obeyed or disobeyed as they saw fit, with the most perfect impunity. Different companies have interfered with and prevented each other from working, if possible. It has been considered a praiseworthy feat "to fix" the Fire Marshal with a stream. The Marshal ordered a fireman to do one thing, and the Assistant Marshals ordered him to do another thing. The testimony before the Commissioners further shows, beyond any question, that there is a powerful clique in the department, supposed to be acting in the interests of Dennis Sweeney, against Williams. This clique is made up of members of the old volunteer department, who are trying to get into power by demonstrating the inefficiency of the present Fire Marshal. Their favorite mode of demonstrating this fact is not to do any work themselves, if they can help it, and interfere with those who do wish to work. This clique is reported to extend to every engine-house in the city, and, of course, must therefore more or less interfere with the efficiency of every engine. At the head of this clique, it is charged, is Assistant Marshal Schanck, who is declared, by the almost unanimous testimony of the witnesses thus far examined, to be incompetent for his position, both in mental calibre and personal habits. Under the generalship of such a man as this, heading a clique against the Marshal, it is not difficult to account for the chaotic state of the department, or that firemen should say, with a sneer: "Fires will burn, no matter who is Chief."

Although the Commission has been in session but one day, sufficient testimony has been developed to warrant the Commissioners in making a clean sweep of this clique, and reorganizing the department upon a working basis. To insure its future efficiency, some stringent regulations should be made, which will correct insubordination at the very outset, and this must be effected, if the work of the present department has to go for the board. The Commissioners would also do well to look into the accounts of the Fire Department, especially in the matter of purchases, and ascertain why the supply of hose always falls short at a fire. Let the investigation be a searching one. There is no question, nor has there been one for a long time, that the department has been rapidly going from worse to worse, until at last it has reached a degree of inefficiency which may at any time result in another great conflagration. To sort out these cliques, to punish subordination, to establish severe disciplinary rules, to regulate the conduct of the employes, both on and off duty, to appoint tried and experienced men, of respectable character, to superintend it, and to place the entire mechanism of the department in complete working order, clearly fall within the province of the Commissioners, and we have faith enough in Mr. Talcott's vigor and determination to believe that he will accomplish these duties.

THE ENGLISH CASE.

England has at last put in her plea of abatement in the Alabama claims, and filed her case, which is to be submitted to the Geneva Tribunal, in the State Department at Washington. No reference is made in the case to the claims for consequential damages, and the fact that such a claim would be made by the United States does not seem to have been entertained at all by the English Commissioners. There is a statement of the matters referred to in the abitration, as understood by the British Government, a statement of facts in reference to the Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Shenandoah; four volumes of correspondence relating to these and other vessels, concerning which representations were made to that Government; and, also, papers relating to the proclamations issued by Grant Britain, and the judgments issued by the Exchequer and the other Courts.

Of the four vessels which inflicted the principal damage,—the Shenandoah, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama,—the British lawyers claim that admissible evidence tending to prove an unlawful intention was only furnished in the case of the Alabama. They claim that the Shenandoah and Georgia were never in any manner or degree fitted out for warlike purposes within the dominions of Her Majesty, but that they left English ports as merchant vessels, and were sold to the Confederate Government after they had left; that no information was furnished proving that the Florida was intended to carry on war against the United States, and that she entered a Confederate port, and remained there four months, during which time she was manned, armed, and provisioned, before she engaged in any operations of war. In the case of the Alabama, proper notice was given, but the persons having possession of her carried her to sea before the order for seizing her was given. The "case" still further claims that, in all cases as to which reasonable evidence could be obtained, the suspected vessels were seized and proceedings instituted for the condemnation of them; that four were thus seized,—the Alexandra, the two iron-clads, and the Canton or Pampero,—and were prevented from being used for belligerent purposes.

It will thus be seen that the English not only do not entertain any idea of consequential damages, but that, in the matter of direct damages, they claim they are only liable to make good what losses may have been inflicted by the Alabama, and even in her case they allege that, "if ordinary activity had been exerted in the endeavor to intercept and capture her, the losses of which the United States now complain would probably have been in great measure averted." In regard to the sufficiency of the information afforded the British Government, the "case" says:

It is necessary throughout to bear in mind not only that the British Government had no secret or important branch of industry, which her Majesty's Government was not required by any international duty duly to make known, but was prohibited by law, and over which it was not justified in assuming any arbitrary control. But the fact is that the principal firms of British ship-builders had been for a long time in the habit of entering into contracts with foreign Governments for the construction of ships of war, their armament, and sale of ships of war, such contracts being privately negotiated in the ordinary course of business, and frequently without the part of the Government to inquire into or interfere with them. No presumption, therefore, as to the real destination of any such vessel could in any case arise from the mere fact of her having a warlike character, although she might be in course of building during a state of war between particular powers, while others were at peace.

The British "case," as made up, perhaps explains the unusual flurry and temper of the people and press over the American "case." They had settled down to the happy conviction that, perhaps, they were liable to pay for the depredations of one vessel, and suddenly found the plaintiff not only demanding reparation for the direct losses inflicted by a dozen or more vessels, but also half-a-dozen different classes of indirect damages, some of them so large that the plaintiff himself couldn't compute them. It is hardly to be wondered at that the British Lion should have lashed himself into ungovernable fury.

EDITORIAL OFFICE-HOLDERS.

Colonel John W. Forney, who some time ago was appointed Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, has resigned, giving, as his reason, that holding such an office was incompatible with the freedom and independence of journalism. He says that his experience since he has been in office has been such that he is constrained to resign, that he may return to his position, and, "in a far more congenial field of usefulness, renew my efforts in my newspaper and the energetic support of the principles of the great Republican party."

If any one person more than another is entitled to speak on this subject from experience, that man is Colonel Forney. He is a veteran journalist and a veteran office-holder. In long years ago he was the editor of the Democratic organ in Philadelphia, and sought from the Democratic party the office of Clerk of the House of Representatives. It was denied him for a time, but he eventually obtained it, and then, as an editor and office-holder, endeavored to preserve his rectitude in both positions. Subsequently, as editor, he sought to be United States Senator, and was defeated, but, not long after, was made Secretary of the Senate, at that time being the editor of two papers, "both daily." How far the independence of the editor was restrained by his official rank, is a matter that belongs to history. Finally, he abandoned office for himself, and applied his energies to his Philadelphia paper. From this field he was called to accept the office of Collector of Customs, and, with all his ripe experience, he accepted the place. The wonder is not that Colonel Forney has discovered that holding an office impairs the value of his paper, discredits it as an organ of public opinion, and limits his independence as a journalist; but the wonder will be that it required six months' additional official life to bring him to that conclusion. It would be doing injustice to the intellectual ability of this veteran editor to assume that he never experienced the embarrassments of official life until now; and, perhaps, it would be equally unjust to assume that during his present brief official appointment his editorial independence has been subjected to greater privations and distress than it ever was while holding office under any previous appointment. Be the case as it may, we have this frank confession by a strong partisan, that he cannot do his duty as an independent journalist so long as he holds office under the present system of Civil Service. We forbear to inquire what it is in holding the office of Collector of the Port of Philadelphia which interferes with the free and honest expression of opinion and discussion of political sentiments by the editor. It is hardly necessary. Every man understands it. There can be no serving of two masters without deceiving one or the other. The journalist cannot abuse the confidence of the public; the office-holder is permitted no will but that of his employer. When these two duties conflict, the editor must destroy public confidence in his paper, or must resign. Colonel Forney has chosen the latter course, and, whatever be the policy he has marked out for his journal, it will be free of all suspicion of control as the price of official position.

A Committee of the Pennsylvania Legislature is engaged in investigating the alleged sale of bogus diplomas by regularly-chartered medical colleges in Philadelphia. The result of the inquiry is not especially encouraging to the people who pin their faith on parchments, and take any diploma as a sure sign of thoroughness of knowledge. The present cook of the Auburn State Prison, better known in criminal records as the "confessions" Dr. Brown, served in New York, has in his possession a regularly-issued diploma from a regularly-chartered institution, "The Eclectic Medical College of Philadelphia." Before the Committee several colored men testified to having bought diplomas for $60 apiece. About half of these full-fledged physicians had attended one lecture; the others had not even gone through with that formality. Dr. Hylton, of Philadelphia, wished to test the honesty of Buchanan College, which is under precisely the same management as the one already named, and applied there for a diploma for his son, 2 years old. He only gave the name, and stated that the applicant had been in the country for two years. The authorities there upon offered the diploma for a certain price, and agreed to waive all attendance upon lectures and any examination whatever. They promised to antedate the document as far back as was wished. The testimony seems thoroughly conclusive. It is to be hoped that those who are directly responsible for the vast amount of suffering and death which result from the practice of unskilled physicians, will receive a punishment meet for their deserts.

Victor Hugo—who, in fickle Paris, since his disastrous defeat, has styled *Victus* Hugo—has announced his belief in Nambetta as the coming man. The main reason for his trust in the fiery demagogue seems to be that, under him, France can take a more speedy revenge upon the bloodthirsty hordes of barbarians. The present system cannot, the exile of Jersey thinks, last. "Napoleon the Little has been surpassed by fifteen days of liberty. The unpardonable sin of the latter was in refusing to allow the great cities to work out their own salvation by means of the guillotine and kindred measures. His usurpations have paved the way, M. Hugo says, for the coming return of Napoleon III., whose reign will be brief and bloody. "A grand popular uprising by which the gentle poet probably means bloody anarchy, will put an end to Bonapartism forever." Gambetta will rise over an abyss, in which every one will have as much money as any one else and every one will be learning "to read and to shoot." When the latter accomplishment is mastered, revenge is of course next in order. Terms of peace will be dictated in Berlin, the natural boundary of the Rhine will be the first condition, a full indemnity for the war to be and the war that has been will be paid, and France will be happy forevermore. Realities have so rudely shattered the hopes of the poet that it is fortunate that he can still so readily delight himself with dreams.

The orders about Chinamen, which the *Official Gazette* of Havana publishes on the 10th inst., are even more outrageous than those hitherto issued. They show a deliberate resolve to reduce to practical slavery the whole body of Chinese who have been lured by artful misrepresentations to ill-fated Cuba. The necessities of the Coolie system may be some excuse for the regulation that Chinamen under bond, who are found to be without police documents, shall be put to forced labor, either at the Government dock-yards, etc., or on some plantation, but the orders about the free Celestials are apparently wholly indefensible. They are forbidden from even asking leave to change their present residences; they are forbidden even to enjoy the inestimable privilege of becoming Spanish citizens; and they are forbidden to leave the country. This last provision shows conclusively that it is not the aim of the Spanish authorities to drive the Chinese population away. They are shrewd enough to see that labor will be the great necessity of the future, and foolish enough to think that the best way to secure it is the enslavement of the labor-ers. Class legislation has been the curse of Spain in the past, and bids fair to be so in the future.

The educational profession of Germany is trying to transmute some of the glory gained by it at Koniggratz and Sedan into solid cash. It complains (and with excellent reason) that its members are wretchedly paid for their service. Some satirist writes: "The schoolmaster conquered at Koniggratz, but starves at home." It is openly said that the cause of the evil is the utter incompetency of the Prussian Minister of Public Instruction. So much has this feeling been manifested that his resignation is considered probable. Some enemy has exhumed from obscurity that terror of eminent men, a volume of poems published in early youth. It is principally devoted to praise of the joys of wine, and expresses a lofty disregard of learning as opposed to liquor. Some of the shorter poems have been set to music, and are having a great run at Berlin, to the intense disgust of their unfortunate author. These rather spiteful efforts are, however, only an indication of the existence among the teachers of Prussia of a wide-spread feeling of dissatisfaction, which is rapidly crystallizing into a determined effort to obtain complete justice from the country which owes them so much.

We notice with regret that Tennyson is to write an ode on the marriage on the recovery of the Prince of Wales. The position of Poet Laureate is evidently not without its disadvantages. This manufacture of machine-made rhyme, whether for the New York *Bugle* or the English nation, must weaken the reputation of the poet. Tennyson's song of welcome to the Princess Alexandra was, to be sure, better than Tupper's, but its merit was chiefly conspicuous by its absence. The most atrocious effort of Sir Walter Scott's ready pen was his effusion on "Waterloo." Still, that was a sort of charitable work, which was very fortunate for its sins. Tennyson is writing for a steadily-decreasing circle of readers; there are still many people who regard him as the first of living poets, but scarcely any one who does not think that in each particular characteristic he is excelled by some one rival. If his patriotic heart is full of surging emotions of joy, the forthcoming poem will probably be a good one; but the way in which it is announced would seem to indicate that it will be patriotism to order, doled out by the guinea's worth.

A correspondent writes to THE TRIBUNE: "Will you be kind enough to inform me why it is that the press generally is so ignorant of the amount our Government has put in as claims for indirect or consequential damages in the Alabama affair, while it publishes and republishes the exact amount of all claims for direct damages?" In reply to which it is only necessary to say that the press is ignorant for the same reason that our correspondent and the agents of the United States themselves are ignorant. The consequential damages, except in one or two counts of the indictment, are left blank, because no two persons in Christendom would calculate them alike. They would run from a nominal sum in gross to a sum up in the billions and trillions, according to the mathematical capacity of the calculator. They may represent a figure which the United States could not compute without making itself ridiculous, and which it never expected to be awarded, or it would have stated the amount definitely. If those who have spent several years studying these claims cannot reduce them to a mathematical certainty, the press can certainly be excused for its inability to do so.

Our Philadelphia contemporaries are beginning to raise a hue and cry because political economy is not taught to suit them in the New England colleges, and foresee a conspiracy against the industries of the country. They point at the same time with local pride to the University of Philadelphia, which "years ago rose above these false doctrines, and teaches the truth with all the acceptability and success that could be looked for or desired." The ordinary reader who is not afflicted with the peculiar and special forms of Pennsylvania industry will naturally enough wonder why Pennsylvania does not patronize her own. University if the New England colleges do not suit her. We know of no other escape from her dilemma unless she get "the knowledges" protected by a high tariff.

—Mrs. Woods, of Millersburg, Holmes County, O., is driving a good business with the aid of the liquor law. She has recovered $16,000 from dealers who have sold liquor to her husband, and the old man still sticks to the saloons. Millersburg is the county seat of the banner Democratic county in Ohio, and there are few but Democrats in the place.

LOUISIANA.

A History of the War of the Factions.

The Central Figure of Politics in That State.

Charges Preferred Against Governor Warmoth.

The Packard and Warmoth Conventions of August, 1871.

Carter, Dunn, and Bovee.

The Legislative War — A Twenty-Day Campaign.

A Senate in a Revenue-Cutter, and a House of Representatives in a Liquor-Saloon.

Wiles, Wrangles, and Whiskey.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 3.

If THE TRIBUNE was in the habit of issuing seven-sheet sheets *per diem*, and was not particular about the nerves of its readers, and had no need of giving any space to Thiers, and the Prince of Wales, Congress, and Governor Palmer's correspondence about Chicago, and the contributors who know just how the titles to real estate should be adjusted, &c., &c., then THE TRIBUNE might expect to be able to give, in a dozen issues, a tolerably circumstantial account of the political intrigues, corruptions, and the irregular proceedings which have enlivened the history of Louisiana since the close of the war. In default of such facilities, we will have to be content with narrating a few of the circumstances which have led to the recent unusual demonstrations.

WARMOTH.

The central figure of all Louisiana politics (and there is nothing in Louisiana but politics, apparently,) is Warmoth.—Warmoth.—Warmoth. What merit there is in the State Government is probably due to Warmoth, for he is the Government,—the focal point of all effort and all talk, whether upon one side or the other, is Warmoth. Charges against Warmoth flow through the popular conversation as the Mississippi River flows the streets at high water or when the gutters are flushed; and the current is quite as filthy. We take Warmoth for breakfast, along with our Texas beef and fried plantain, and have him with our soup and roast mallard for dinner. Citizens accosting each other in the streets inquire what is new about Warmoth, instead of, "How are you!" They even have been known to forget to grumble about the present split in the wealth, which has kept everybody shivering and rheumatic for the last ten or twelve days,—the like having never been known before, the oldest inhabitant tells me. In short, one cannot turn down a street, get a mint of drinks, or drop into a hotel reading-room to dust off a little, but he will run upon two, four, or, more likely, half-a-dozen excited citizens, discussing the deeds of Warmoth. Warmoth is in Chicago; what Tweed, Fisk, Jr., Jay Gould, Woodhull, and Greeley, all together, are to New York, as objects of interest, Warmoth is to Louisiana.

Well, what of Warmoth?

Warmoth was, as mentioned in my previous letter, a Union soldier during the war. He is, like Grant, one of the great men over whom Mr. Richard Lalor claims a paternal sort of relation, having signed their commissions and discovered the then hidden germ of their greatness. He helped raise a negro regiment in Missouri (the Thirty-second Infantry), and was made its Lieutenant Colonel. Fighting as only one of pluck can, he was wounded in one of the attacks upon Vicksburg. He also acquitted himself with great credit in several other hard-fought battles of the Western army, and he had the misfortune to incur the personal enmity of those omnipotent fellows who sat exalted upon the staff of Grant,—J. H. Wilson, to-wit, an Assistant Inspector General,—and the former, it is said, he was once manhandled and dismissed the army, on General Grant's recommendation as Commander of the Department. The charges were the most flimsy, trumped up, and false. When Warmoth was soon reinstated, with full rank and pay from the date of his suspension. Beyond all doubt, Warmoth was a good soldier, and, as such, acquitted himself well during the close of the war, when he settled down in New Orleans as a lawyer, politician, and soldier of fortune. He shot rapidly into notoriety, and popularity. He served conspicuously as a lobby member of the Constitutional Convention of 1867-8, and was the Republican candidate for Governor, submitted to the people at the same time with that instrument, viz., in June, 1868. Four years was to commence on the 1st of the following January, but, by special provision of the law, it was to include an extra six months,—the period intervening between the ratification of the Constitution and the date mentioned. THE CONSTITUTION OF 1868 AND THE LEGISLATURE THEREUNDER.

The Constitution under which he was elected, and the laws which were passed under it, were framed to suit the understood emergencies of the times,—the Rebel spirit, or, rather, perhaps, the Rebel want of spirit of society, being then so rampant as to justify, or at least afford, a pretext for an almost military style of Government. The form is republican, but the spirit is that of the laws, as they stand, are essentially despotic. What Warmoth's hand has been in the passage of these laws for the centralization of power, and the facilitating of corruption, I will not attempt to enter out at this stage of the evidence; but it is well known that the laws are of a sort which have been encouraged in Congress by the only means of keeping the rascally Rebels well under and "insuring Republican supremacy."

THE FIRST ELECTION LAW

of the new State, with Andy Johnson's Policy to inspire, from Washington, the disloyal and disorderly elements, resulted lamentably. Negrophobia was rampant, and terrorism was the order of the day. Leaders, by Warmoth's advice, resorted to abstention, and, where negroes or "abolitionists" did attempt to vote, bloody riots, and even massacres, occurred. The result was, that, whereas the liberal Constitution of the State had been adopted in June by a vote of 152,000 (supposed to be the Republican strength), the total vote for the Grant Electors, in November, was but 84,000. The former parishes or counties, there was not a single Grant vote.

A LEAP TO THE OTHER EXTREME.

In short, the result of this election, and the legislation which followed, were not of a sort to encourage the friends of liberal reconstruction. Consequence, a leap to the other extreme. In 1869 and 1870, election laws were enacted which were not without precedent in Louisiana in old slavery-days, but which would shock the really Republican States of the North out of their very senses. By these laws, the custody of the polls and the counting of the votes were placed in the hands of the Governor's appointees, instead of men chosen from the people. These were a Supervisor of Registration, his clerk, and such other assistants as the Supervisor might appoint. Sheriffs of parishes are also appointed by the Governor; also, of course, all officers of the militia,—for which "liberal patronage" is provided by the laws, to be handled and dealt out by Gubernatorial appointees. Thus both the peaceable and the violent or forcible means of power are centralized entirely in the Executive Head, has, at the same time, the control of the Courts, for he appoints the Judges of the higher tribunals and the petty Magistrates of the parishes. He has the control of the formation of public opinion, through the patronage which he is enabled to give the press. In short, there is nothing to hinder a strong, ambitious man in the Executive Chair from making his own laws and construing them, as well as executing them. He

VIRTUALLY CHOOSES THE LEGISLATURE,

for, when an election of members approaches, he has only to modify the existing laws, to send out a sufficient number of his adherents from New Orleans to the country parishes as Supervisors or Registrators, with directions to register themselves to the Legislature, and, *presto!* that body is his, body and to hold for such purposes as he wills. The young man whom he appoints to all seeming, an adventurer from some Northern State) as Supervisor goes out to his parish, stays there long enough to register his friends, at least, as voters, and then, a few days before the election, resigns his office in favor of his clerk, and runs for the Legislature. If the people do not choose to vote for him, he need not mind them; for, in a case of disputes, he has sole control of the ballot-boxes, and the appeal is to the Governor, who fitted him out in the first place. This kind of practice, and the encouragement which it has received from Warmoth, is giving him the best of opportunities to pack a Legislature with his own servile tools, have resulted in the returning to the present Legislature of sixteen men who served in the previous term of administration, either actively or virtually. For seven of the members new parishes were carved out, somewhat after the manner of railroad stock watering. One of the sixteen was Walter Wheyland, whose tragical death is referred to further on. He was added to the Legislature from the parish of Sabine, notwithstanding his competitor brought along affidavits from more than four-fifths of the qualified for him (the contestant).

INCREASE OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The scandal growing out of such cases as these has become rife enough. Still greater is that arising from the unwarrantable, and, probably unconstitutional increase of the public debt. The constitutional limit is $25,000,000; which the present administrations of the last session left the same at $41,000,000. Of this, however, it is claimed by the Governor that about one-half is only a contingent, and, as he says, a "very contingent" obligation of the State in behalf of certain railroads. At all events, the determination which the Executive has manifested, to stop the ruinous outflow of appropriations, and to obey the Constitution henceforth, (there are elections approaching, and it pays to be virtuous), has, together with the undoubted honesty of the auditor, had a salutary effect upon the credit of the State; so that its Treasury warrants, which sank a few months ago to 40 cents, now sell for 70, and its 6 per cent bonds have risen to 55 cents in the New York market. One of the causes which have combined to empty the State's Treasury is the enormous fees of the Collectors of Taxes. These officials are allowed to absorb upward of 15 per cent of all the moneys collected. New Orleans is $20,000,000 in debt on her own account, and each one of the half-dozen Collectors appointed by the Governor to tithe the people gets from $50,000 to $100,000 a year out of her in the shape of fees and commissions for himself. And the plums like this which the Governor has to dispose of, to enrich his own purse or to enhance his power, as he may choose, are simply monstrous.

THE PRINTING STEAL

is another first-class robbery of the Treasury, as well as a mighty power by which, through all the patronage is centralized. In short, the power and patronage together are enough to enable any skilful man (and Warmoth is certainly skilful) to perpetuate his power as long as he pleases, and to make, during the term of his pleasure, as absolutely as the Khan of Tartary.

THE FLOCKING OF THE VULTURES.

That is, provided the vast immensity of the system does not, by producing revolutions, work its own remedy. It is, apparently, producing such a result. The carcass brings the vultures; the booty brings the robbers, intent on plunder, and saddened by jealousy and cupidity. The laws of the State are filled with the object of bribery. The Pelican State—a Parish—would care for the Glades, Busses, and Mountaineers, now in torment for petty bribery in Chicago—has had no commodity more dealt in during the period of kicking Mr. Bover out of his office, and putting another man in his place. That other man was Pinchback, and people say he has gained unanimous in his opinion that the General is absolutely without reproach in the matter of jobbery. But, at all events, Bovee was ejected by forces, and not by any legal process. He appealed to a Court of review in the shape of a *quo warranto*, and the Judge (it was the inevitable Eighth District Court) decided that the Governor had the authority to strip a constitutional officer of his functions without process or trial. The Supreme Court of the State has decided otherwise in the case of two other officers suspended in a similar manner; but the appeal in Bovee's case was insisted upon purely technical grounds. The law, I am told, mention, make ample provision for the impeachment of the Secretary of State and all other officers.

CARTER'S OPPORTUNITY.

Well, as I was saying, Lieutenant Governor Dunn died, and Carter's opportunity arrived. He, being Speaker of the House, was next in the line of succession to the Governorship. His title to the Speakership for an entire term was like all other legal questions in Louisiana, rather vague. Nevertheless, there was very little doubt that he would have been the rightful acting Governor, if Warmoth could have been got out of the way. Indeed, he claims to have been quite apprehensive that he would have been put out of the way by the Governor himself, if things had gone on in the way they were thus left. This is deemed a reasonable apprehension by those conversant with New Orleans society, though it seems rather to the Governor when it is so easy to shove him aside in a legal manner by merely *preferring* articles of impeachment,—not convicting under them.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

At all events, Warmoth determined to move on the enemy, and summoned the Senate together in special session for the election of the President and Ministry of the Governor. (The Constitution authorizes him to summon the General Assembly, but says nothing about a single branch thereof.) Warmoth's safety lay in electing colored men to the Warmoth police, militia, &c., and, at all, and save the necessity of blood-shed. The people failed to rally, however, and the Carter movement ended for this session.

The refractory members of the House, after a week's siege at the club-room over the Senate, did add that place to the list of institution was freely discussed from the opposite partisan standpoints,—the Warmoth organ referring to it as "had whiskey and oysters," and the anti-Warmouth journal dilating with pride upon the "magnificent beverages" of the establishment. Finally, however, the anti-Warmouth journals ceased to speak of the matter, and it was dropped into the pigeon-hole of forgotten things.

EPISODE BETWEEN WARMOTH AND DUNN.

Not far from this time, an episode occurred between Warmoth and Dunn, illustrative of the peculiarities of these Southern squabbles. Warmoth received a severe injury to his foot which disabled him for several weeks and endangered his life. Knowing the extra excitement any quite fresh, the Governor stuck to New Orleans as long as he was able, but it was the sickly season, and he was forced to leave the city for a while. He was no sooner gone than Dunn began to assume the functions of Governor

THE ILLINOIS RAILROAD DISASTER.

Coroner's Inquest—Testimony and Verdict.

From the St. Louis Democrat, Feb. 6.

After a brief parley with the conductor of the passenger train, Conductor Baker, in charge of the freight, left hurriedly for Alton Junction, where he despatched the following telegram to the Assistant Superintendent, which throws a flood of light upon the cause of the accident, and fixes its responsibility beyond a doubt:

ALTON JUNCTION, 7 a. m.—*H. Loosly:* I collided with Number Four, 5 m., at one mile north of this place. I was mistaken in time card. Thought time was 6:15 at Upper Alton, instead of 6:30.

BAKER.

The movements of Baker from that time are only partially known. Leaving Alton Junction he fled to St. Louis, where he has been seen and spoken to, but has since prudently sought safety in flight from the vengeance of the Coroner's inquest hanging over him. An inquest was held in the office of Squire Hogan, who early in the morning had impaneled a jury, and, with the help, proceeded to sit on the case, and determine who was responsible.

The first witness was Dr. Eli Williams, who testified to finding soon after the accident Conductor Baker, the witness here being refused admission by four persons, two of whom, he remarks, he had known by their names; one of these latter one was a deputy sheriff. Of these latter one was a short, thick-set man, about the size of two flats, and the other a long bone, which, from its general appearance, he supposed to be the femur of a small size, he supposed to be the femur of a horse.

Dr. A. Hazlitt, of Alton, a partner of Dr. Williams, testified to the same general effect.

Mr. A. B. Platt, of Alton, testified to going up to the scene of the accident, and assisting in getting the burned bodies out of the cars.

Henry W. Hart testified to the general appearance of the wreck. He assisted the bodies out of the debris. The conductor looked them out with a long piece of iron; helped out the remains of a woman with a shovel.

The next witness was Mr. E. J. Fitzgerald, conductor of the passenger train, who testified substantially as follows:

My train was due at Alton at 6:20; left Upper Alton at 6:31. The train consisted of one baggage car, one coach and one sleeping-car. At the time of the accident I was in the front end of the sleeping car. The distance from Upper Alton to the junction was one and three-quarter miles. I had forty-five passengers on the train, of whom seven were in the smoking coach. Immediately behind the baggage-car. There is no telegraph office between Brighton and Alton Junction. The collision occurred at twelve or fifteen minutes after 6; I was in the front end of the sleeping-car at the time, and went to work to extinguish the fire and help the passengers out. Several of passengers are also escaped from the wreck was seven; there were three of them who were not present, one a middle-aged man, who had a basket of provisions with him, and the other two were ladies. I should judge there were a dozen passengers in the forward car, there might have been fifteen, he should not think there were more. It would be hard to say the number that got out. Those that came out that were not hurt came right on the train. He could not see anything, there was so much smoke; the stoves were all broken, and scattered all over the car. The stoves were taken out of the debris of the car, but could not tell from their position at what point they were sitting at the time of the collision. The track was body could tell, everything was so shattered. He could not tell how long it took to give any opinion as to whether they were killed in the accident or by burning. The fire caught very quick, after it happened; his impression was that she was killed; could not tell whether she made any cry or not. There was a great deal of hallooing and screeching after the accident occurred. The reason I was able to rescue all the passengers was owing to being caught in the timbers by the telescopication of the cars, which knocked the seats of the car askew to some extent, thereby allowing it. The stoves was full of wood; it opened and scattered the fire all around. The fire was out almost immediately after the collision; it appeared to be small at first, and then broke out over the whole car at once. The passengers were mostly rescued by the telescopic action of the car. I have no idea how he got out of the car. The reputation of the Freight conductor was good, and he was said to be competent. I don't know whether I saw the engineer and others on the freight train was. It is the duty of the freight train, when behind hand, to keep out of the way of the passenger train, if it sees it in time. I was running on the time card. The rails were frosted; the accident occurred in a cut about twelve feet deep, and he could see ahead for a distance not exceeding 20 yards. The grade runs up to about 60 feet at the curve, where the ground was level and where the accident occurred. The engineer of passenger train whistled down brakes, and in a few seconds after we struck. The freight engine was on the passenger engine. The lady that was burned was on the other seat from the front; two were worn in the seat facing the front, and two on the opposite side of the car. The conductor and engineer of the freight went to St. Louis on my train; don't know where they went to after that. If all the men on my train had been at their posts they could not have stopped my train. Don't think I made a mistake in time card; that he thought the engineer was mistaken, instead of 6:30, at Upper Alton. He had his watch at the time of the collision, and found it to be correct. Don't know what orders were sent for by the company immediately after the accident.

Andrew Cessford, engineer on the passenger train, was next examined, and testified substantially as to the time and incidents of the accident. Baker's reputation was that of a first-class man; he said he made a mistake—that he thought the time of the freight was 6:15, instead of 6:30. From the conversation of Baker, the witness knew he had seen the time-card. If Baker had looked at the time-card at the junction he would have seen his mistake. The train was not heated, and the brakes did not hold as well as they might. The engineer on the freight train (Halpine) was called a first-class man.

Mr. S. Peabody, fireman on the freight train, was called, and testified that Halpine told him that he was going out on the passenger train time, and had fifteen minutes to make the side-track at Upper Alton. Baker was in the engine with the engineer. He did not think they were going over ten or fifteen miles an hour.

Mr. H. D. Judd was next placed on the stand. He was in the sleeping-car—first seat—at the time of the collision. The passenger in the forward car were seated as follows: One on the first seat, two on the second, and the balance between the middle and the front end of the car; he had just passed through it at the time the collision happened, into the sleeping car, where he sat down; there was only one lady on the east side, and a gentleman laying down on the seat in front of her; she was facing south, and two or three gentlemen were on the other side opposite her. He should judge there were a dozen passengers in the forward car, there might have been fifteen, he should not think there were more. It would be hard to say the number that got out. Those that came out that were not hurt came right on the train. He could not see anything, there was so much smoke; the stoves were all broken, and scattered all over the car. The stoves were taken out of the debris of the car, but could not tell from their position at what point they were sitting at the time of the collision. The track was body could tell, everything was so shattered. He could not tell how long it took to give any opinion as to whether they were killed in the accident or by burning. The fire caught very quick, after it happened; his impression was that she was killed; could not tell whether she made any cry or not. There was a great deal of hallooing and screeching after the accident occurred. The reason I was able to rescue all the passengers was owing to being caught in the timbers by the telescopication of the cars, which knocked the seats of the car askew to some extent, thereby allowing it. The stoves was full of wood; it opened and scattered the fire all around. The fire was out almost immediately after the collision; it appeared to be small at first, and then broke out over the whole car at once. The passengers were mostly rescued by the telescopic action of the car. I have no idea how he got out of the car. The reputation of the Freight conductor was good, and he was said to be competent. I don't know whether I saw the engineer and others on the freight train was. It is the duty of the freight train, when behind hand, to keep out of the way of the passenger train, if it sees it in time. I was running on the time card. The rails were frosted; the accident occurred in a cut about twelve feet deep, and he could see ahead for a distance not exceeding 20 yards. The grade runs up to about 60 feet at the curve, where the ground was level and where the accident occurred. The engineer of passenger train whistled down brakes, and in a few seconds after we struck. The freight engine was on the passenger engine. The lady that was burned was on the other seat from the front; two were worn in the seat facing the front, and two on the opposite side of the car. The conductor and engineer of the freight went to St. Louis on my train; don't know where they went to after that. If all the men on my train had been at their posts they could not have stopped my train. Don't think I made a mistake in time card; that he thought the engineer was mistaken, instead of 6:30, at Upper Alton. He had his watch at the time of the collision, and found it to be correct. Don't know what orders were sent for by the company immediately after the accident.

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SNOWED IN ON THE PLAINS.

A Winter Journey Across the Plains Illustrated by Rev. Dr. Ryder.

How Little Snow-Flakes Can Stop a Locomotive.

An Appeal for the Trees --- Thrift Among the People of Colorado --- Longmont.

Rev. Dr. Ryder, pastor of St. Paul's Church, corner of Peck court and Wabash avenue, preached last night on the subject, "Snowed In on the Plains." The congregation was not a very large one, the inclemency of the weather, doubtless, preventing the attendance of many persons. The discourse was an able one, full of illustrations, and at abstract of it will be read with interest. Dr. Ryder took as his text the sixteenth verse of the 147th Psalm, -- "He giveth snow like wool," and said that snow was not common in the lower districts of the Holy Land, but fell in large quantities in the northern portions, particularly upon the mountains of Lebanon. Nothing connected with this globe seemed to him so remarkable as the atmosphere with which it is surrounded. The resources of nature were inexhaustible, and are every day increasing in wonder and variety; but those of the atmosphere are more various, more wonderful, and more indispensible to the support of human life. The atmosphere appeared to be destitute of life, but every one who had given it thought knew that it was presented in the upper air as in the strata of the soil; that there is being taken up from the Southern ocean now a large supply of water, which, in warm weather, is to be scattered over the planet, and that all these things are controlled by laws. The frost in winter made vegetable forms on the windows with the utmost precision, and under the microscope reveal the most delicate forms. And not only upon the globe, but upon another sphere, rushing winds, these beautiful forms are made and fall down upon the earth to gladden our eyes and adorn it in every direction.

He had returned to Chicago on Friday morning last, after a brief visit to Colorado. When within a hundred miles north of Denver, the train was blocked in by the snow and detained three days. The passengers did not suffer any special misfortune, particularly as they had taken passage on the Pullman sleeper. When they reached a station they were gratuitously fed by the railroad company, which had been kept supplied with oysters and antelope in the express cars.

The snow blocked the train. It did not seem as if it had fallen in that way was more impressing than a well-appointed railway train in motion. It seemed to be absolutely irresistible as it moved on the train. But night after night the tiny snow flake could stop it. See the flakes coming through the air one after another. By-and-by one whole field is covered with and at last the earth is covered with its wintry robe. The engine sweeps any considerable quantity ruthlessly aside, but as it becomes firmer, the engine is obliged to stop, for the little snow flakes piling one after another have blocked the way, and no more progress can be made. It puffed right steadily at first, but at last it ceases altogether.

We see in this how little events, accumulating, block the way of man; how little deeds accumulate and stand between him and his God; how little thoughts some one by one, or here and there united with at last become an irresistible barrier, an immovable obstacle, in the way of success. Remember how a snow flake stopped the train, and thus see how ill-deeds and bad practices block the way of man.

After the snow had been shaken off of the train in front of the train, winds carried it in the rear, and placed an impediment in the way of the next train. So public sentiment sweeps across men's way for their welfare or for woe.

The passengers had nothing to do for three or four days, and his experience there had taught him the value of the good habits and walk in the ways of wisdom and truth.

How strange and mysterious were the ways of Providence and God lifted up one nation and cast down another---Egypt, Syria, Greece, Rome, all ancient Europe, and much of the modern; the Mormon leader in Utah had repeated the founding of a new empire was said, and, to-day, a busy population reaches west ward. Some people seem to think it nothing but accidental which is not old, and that nothing is worth a thought unless it is new. How deliberately God unfolds his purposes, seemingly never in a hurry. Many he has address--ing would relate in the new avenues of industry which are opening before them. Some will find a happy home in that portion of the country ten years from to-day.

Of all the passengers that left Chicago on the train with him, none at first felt so lonely reached Denver. No human face met on any of the disappointed station by strangers in the world. Those who are cast middle-boots bank and and comparatively in journeying with them to-day. They have dropped out of the train, one after the other, and lie scattered in the cold graves of those strange to them. They go on their way, and at three-score and ten how many that commenced their journey with them will be left. The train won't stop to take the bodies off wherever it may be. In childhood, in mid-life, in old age,---wherever it pauses, may we lie down the sleep of Christian confidence, and be assured there is an ample room for all in the great home above!

A Defence of Alderman Carney.

To The Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

Since the press seems to have reached the climax of its vindictive speech against, and hatred of, the Irish population of our city. The last gentleman aligned out for attack, in the way of anti-Hibernal, fourth-class witticism, is Mr. Thomas Carney, the worthy Alderman of the Eighteenth Ward, whose standing in social and political circles is too well known to be repeated in this paper.

To vindicate the character of Mr. Carney is the least of my intentions, resting assured that he has already placed his reputation beyond the reach of any assault. To be brief, it will silence indignant Irishmen:

Mr. Carney is represented as having assented to use his influence with Chas. Sheldon, Esq., as an alderman, in securing "the widening of North State street," for the sum of $2,000, from Nathaniel H. Sheldon.

I would invite Mr. Sheldon to come forward and give the public a little information as to how much he would be benefited were State street widened miles north of Chicago avenue.

Alderman Carney is long and favorably known in our city, not only to your correspondent, but to many of your readers, and I think, and to day he can defy the finger of scorn or the pen of malice to point out or mention one dishonorable act of his, whether as an Alderman or as humble citizen.

Alderman Carney, having the mind conscious of the right, may also afford to treat with silent contempt the accusations of his enemies, confident that, in a very short time, the unjust statements of his slanderers will return to the sire from which they emanated.

Please insert the above and do a favor to

A LOVER OF JUSTICE.

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.

CINCINNATI RELIEF.

Meeting of the Chicago Relief Committee of the Cincinnati Common Council -- Letters Read from Mayor Medill, Rev. R. De Baptiste, and Hon. Henry Greenebaum, of Chicago.

At a meeting of the Chicago Relief Committee of the Cincinnati Common Council, held in Cincinnati on Friday last, the following communications were presented by Mr. B. Frankland, the Agent of the Committee at the Chicago Soup-House. The letters tell their themselves:

LETTER FROM MAYOR MEDILL.

To Alderman J. L. Keck, Chairman Council Committee, Cincinnati:

DEAR SIR: Mr. Frankland, your General Agent here, on his arrival in Cincinnati, will explain the situation of relief matters in Chicago from his standpoint of observation. The enclosed statement of the Relief and Aid Society gives notice, as you will perceive, that "the resources" they have on hand, or at command, "will meet the wants of the present winter."

In regard to the continuance of the Cincinnati Soup House, on North Peoria street, in the face of the declaration of the officers of the Relief and Aid Society, I am not prepared to give a decided opinion, and never think your action shall be based upon the report of your agent, who is more familiar with the facts and necessities than I am. That the soup-house has done its establishment, done great good there can not be any question. For the next six weeks after the fire its value in relieving hunger can hardly be exaggerated. Since that time other relief methods and agencies have become more perfectly organized and systematized and the necessity for the soup-house is consequently less than at first.

Within a month the demand for out-door work will greatly increase, and the necessity for supplying gratuitous rations will in proportion decrease. By the 1st of April the winter will have so far disappeared that relief will need be met on other principles, which defied the cold and storm. It was becoming apparent that many diseases were taken into the lungs through the atmosphere; but by and by there will be no more of the atmosphere,---several of which will neutralize and destroy the virus in the atoms that disease may be kept away from the people. There was also coming down from the atmosphere large quantities of soil that accumulated over ruins, as about Rome. Who that had looked out of a window upon the beautiful snow flakes formed with the utmost precision, and under the microscope reveal the most delicate forms, had not noticed the same globe also sending up another class of flakes, the crushing winds, these beautiful forms are made and fall down upon the earth to gladden our eyes and adorn it in every direction.

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The Late Archbishop Spalding.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 10 -- Mass will be offered, tomorrow morning, in all the Catholic Churches of this city, for the repose of the soul of Archbishop Spalding. The exterior of all Catholic Churches are draped in mourning. All through yesterday and to-day a countless throng of persons, of all denominations, visited the late residence of the Archbishop, where the body lies in State. The funeral ceremonies, on Monday, will be of the most imposing character.

THE LAW COURTS.

How a Certain Piece of Land Was Bought for $3,500 and Sold for $8,000.

The Law Concerning the Collection of Rent from Sub-Tenant -- Bankrupt Aurora Insurance Company.

The Circuit Court.

LAND LAW.

An action of assumpsit, lately commenced by George T. Hanford, of Schenectady, N. Y., against James H. Ely, terminated on Saturday in a verdict for the plaintiff of $1,691.44. It was alleged that Mr. Ely tendered a bargain of land in the vicinity of Forty-second street, to Mr. Hanford; that, availing himself of the confidence of plaintiff, he purchased a lot from Christopher Mc'ts, the south 100 feet of Lot 26, Margaret Johnston's Subdivision of the Southhalf of the southeast quarter; northeast quarter, Section 3, 38, 14, for $3,500, and over. The suit was to recover the overplus. It was stated by Judge Booth to be law in such a case if the jury believed that the defendant, Ely, had a conversation with plaintiff, in which plaintiff requested him to act for him concerning the purchase of the property, and afterward Ely went to Mets, the owner of the property, and purchased it for himself for $3,500, including notes, and then represented that he had purchased the property for Hanford for $4,000, including the notes, wherefore Hanford paid over $4,050, Ely paying over to Mcts only $2,500 including the notes, then there would be a recovery for the difference. So, if George Walt had a contract for the purchase of the property, which contract defendant obtained from Mets in the name of Walt, and afterward Ely saw Hanford and represented that the property was owned by another, but he could purchase it for $4,000, having paid but $2,500, then it is to be considered whether Ely was not acting as the agent of Hanford, for, if he was, damages should be assessed against him for the difference, less cost and charge and interest.

But unless the defendant acted as such agent, there could be no recovery; and, therefore, it would be immaterial wherever Ely stated to Hanford who owned the land, or who he was selling for.

MANDAMUS.

An alternative writ of mandamus was issued at the relation of Henry Keiser Reed, directed to George Taylor, City Comptroller. Reed states that Lot 5, Block 115, School Section Addition, with the buildings thereon, was sold, on May 1, 1871, for delinquency in the payment of the amount of an assessment for the paving of Adams street, from State to Wabash avenue; that he received before the 20th purchased and received a certificate, which, by assignment, came to the complainant. The owner of the land, however, redeemed, and paid $244.44. Now it is refused to complainant to issue a warrant to him for the amount.

LANDLORD AND TENANT.

In an action, brought by Henry Stillwell, to recover from Patrick Lunney, rent, a verdict was rendered for $600, and it was stated by Judge Booth to be law that when a plaintiff seeks to recover rent of premises, he must show that the person from whom he seeks to recover held possession of the premises, and that he was under obligation to pay rent, for when a man takes possession of land forcibly, and without consent of the owners, he is a trespasser, and he may be ejected or he may bring an action for rent. But if A has a lease of premises for a term of years, and sub-lets, and puts in his sub-tenant, and then abandons the lease, and that the defendant came in under the sub-tenant, by recognizing the plaintiff's right in the premises, and agreeing to pay rent, and that, although no lease was actually given, still the plaintiff, A, may recover so much as the evidence shows the use and occupation was reasonably worth.

The Superior Court.

JUDGMENTS.

Judgment was rendered against the Pacific Insurance Company of the City of San Francisco, in favor of Leopold Simon and others (Simon, Meyer & Co.), for $1,000.

Judgment was confessed by Charles Charleton and Thomas E. Miller, in favor of Henry Lamparter, for $2,854.

Also, in favor of Case F. Maurer, in favor of Spencer & Bally more, for $1,000.

The United States District Court.

INSURANCE.

The Aurora Fire Insurance Company was adjudicated bankrupt.

OBITUARY.

Death of ex-Justice John S. Quinn.

Ex-Justice John S. Quinn is no more. He died of brain-fever at his residence, No. 634 Hubbard street, at 8:15 last evening. Mr. Quinn was an old citizen of, and, was widely known in Chicago. He had marked ability as a lawyer, but he was much given to social enjoyment, which somewhat retarded his success. John S. Quinn was a man of generous impulses, ever ready for contesting to serve a friend. He would defend the most hopeless case without reward, or hope of reward, if his kind heart were appealed to. He was at last gaining a position among the leading members of the bar when death struck him down. Mr. Quinn was entirely self-made man. He came from Ireland when quite a child, and had to battle with all the difficulties of a new country. He served an apprenticeship at almost every trade, learning a business until, by dint of hard study and indomitable plank, he got admitted to the bar of this city. In 1867 he ran for and was elected to the office of Police Magistrate in the North Division, which position he filled with credit during the two years of his term. He contracted the fatal illness about two weeks ago, and has been attended by some of our most prominent physicians, but no medical skill could save him. At the time of his demise he was 41 years and 3 months old. He leaves a wife and several children to mourn his untimely loss. The remains will be interred in Calvary Cemetery on Tuesday next. The funeral procession will leave Mr. Quinn's late residence at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

THE CITY IN BRIEF.

Leap Year Surprise Party.

One of the most enjoyable and fashionable parties of the season took place on Saturday evening, at the residence of Mr. Henry Leopold, 1165 Indiana avenue, it being a Leap Year surprise party, given by Mr. Leopold. About 9 o'clock the guests put in their appearance, and the young gentleman, little dreaming for their intention, was perfectly overwhelmed with surprise. The elegant parlors were at once thrown open, and, as the host said, an impromptu affair was the order of the evening, interrupted only by the sumptuous supper, after which dancing was engaged in. The entertainment passed off, and the ladies displayed their gallantry, and it was only regretted by the gentlemen that Leap Year comes so seldom. Among those present, to whom special mention is due, were Misses Bella Johnson, Trustee; John R. Johnson, James Medley.

R. DeBAPTISTE,
Pastor Olivet Baptist Church, Chicago.

CHICAGO, Feb. 5, 1872.

Personal.

LETTER FROM HENRY GREENEBAUM.

J. L. Keck, Esq., Chairman Chicago Relief Committee, Cincinnati, Ohio:

DEAR SIR: I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of Your letter of the 8th inst., and in behalf of United Hebrew Relief Association, to express your generous offer. Words are insufficient to even indicate in a remote degree our sense of grateful appreciation of your noble, voluntary, God bless you. We will prepare the lists as desired, and forward same to you in a day or two. Very respectfully,

Vice President U. H. R. A.

CHICAGO, Feb. 7, 1872.

The New Liquor Law in LaSalle.

One of the strongest Democratic towns in Illinois is what of LaSalle. Republicans are few and far between in that burg. But the people there appear to be strong supporters of the new Liquor Law, making salers responsible for the mischief they commit, as the following report of the proceedings of a late meeting proves:

LASALLE, Ill., Feb. 7. -- In answer to a numerously signed call, a public meeting convened in Opera Hall at 7 o'clock, this evening, the Rev. Mr. Hall was largely attended by classes regardless of party, creed of political and religious sentiments. The meeting was organized by the appointment of Captain Lasalle, Superintendent of the Franklin Glass Works, as Chairman, and Wm. H. Monk as Secretary. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we express our hearty thanks to the General Assembly of this state that they have, by such an overwhelming majority, enacted a Temperance law as well adapted to our needs, and to the general sentiment of the people on this subject, and also to the Governor of the State for his prompt approval of the same.

Resolved, That we also thank Senator Reddick, of this district, and Representatives Armstrong, Clark, and Edgecomb, (all Democrats), of this county, for their hearty support of this bill, and their consistent efforts in securing its passage.

Resolved, That we hereby pledge ourselves to earnest efforts in securing a strict enforcement of the provisions of this law in LaSalle county, and call on Citizens in favor of law and order, of temperance and economy, to unite with us in doing so.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the Chicago papers, with a request for their publication. JAMES LAMBE, Chairman.

WM. H. MONK, Secretary.

The Cadi's Decision.

A poor Turkish slater, of Constantinople, being at work upon the roof of a house, lost his footing and fell into the narrow street upon a mass of stone chanced to be passing at the time. The unfortunate was killed by the concussion, while the slater escaped without material injury.

A son of the deceased caused the slater to be arrested and taken before the Cadi, where he made the most grave charge, and claimed ample redress.

The Cadi listened attentively, and in the end asked the slater what he had to say in his defence.

"My lispenser of Justice," answered the accused, in humble mood, "it is even as this man says; but God forbid that there should be evil in my heart. I am a poor man, and I know not how I can make amending."

The son of the man who had been killed thereupon demanded the severest punishment should be inflicted upon the accused.

The Cadi meditated a few moments, and finally said:

"It shall be so."

Then to the slater he continued:

"Thou shalt go into the street where the father of this slain what then didst fall upon him."

And to the accuser he added,

"And thou shalt, if it so please thee, go upon the roof, and fall upon the culprit, even as he did fall upon thy father. Allah is great!"

The Late Archbishop Spalding.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 10 -- Mass will be offered, tomorrow morning, in all the Catholic Churches of this city, for the repose of the soul of Archbishop Spalding. The exterior of all Catholic Churches are draped in mourning. All through yesterday and to-day a countless throng of persons, of all denominations, visited the late residence of the Archbishop, where the body lies in State. The funeral ceremonies, on Monday, will be of the most imposing character.

Rights of Inmates of Lunatic Asylums.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

SIR: My attention has recently been called to the subject of a bill now pending before our State Legislature, in defense of the rights of the inmates in Lunatic Asylums to the unrestricted liberty of epistolary correspondence. To those unacquainted with the rules of such institutions, this bill may seem superfluous, since the justice and propriety of what it implies must be apparent. But it is a sad fact that a privilege so precious to all intelligent people is denied to the most unfortunate beings, whose terrible destiny it is to be confined in such institutions.

An erroneous public sentiment has deemed it dangerous and inexpedient to all parties concerned, to allow to the inmates of asylums the exercise of such an enjoyment.

This false sentiment, as I have reason to know, owes both its origin and its perpetuity to those "powers that be," who hold the keys of Lunatic Asylums, and whose interests as they imagine, require that some of what transpires within the secret limits of their territory should be concealed from the eye of the public.

But this bugbear, and most absurd theory, that it is dangerous for lunatics to write when they please, is fast being exploded. Let us, therefore, boldly examine it, independent of all the sophistry with which it has been befogged by the cirrus of the past. Let us view it, not in the light of any one whose interest may compel a position to this bill, but in the broad, clear, calm light of reason and humanity.

This bill proposed for the insane the same liberty of writing that other people enjoy,---the liberty to propose our business, to confirm our friendships, to give utterance to our affections, and to communicate to our thoughts, upon any subject we please, through the medium of the pen.

Now, the refusal of this privilege to the insane, when they desire it, causes them much grief and aggravation; as it ignores and trifles with many of their mental requirements and most important interests. Their delusions often distorted, perverted, even insane or distracted, if you please, are yet human minds, and, such minds, though diseased, are often quick, acute, and intensely sensitive to neglect or ill treatment; their trains of thought are frequently logical and logical, and unaffected by the peculiar features of their insanities on other subjects, their affections are often as refined and tender as in their sound state, their proper objects; and, when the legitimate exercise of these natural feelings is impeded by the withholding of writing materials, or the refusal to mail letters, the consequence is eminently injurious to the patient.

Even if these thoughts are absurd, or erroneous, or false, if you please, I wish to inquire if all the world's absurdities, follies, and falsehoods are confined to the walls of a lunatic asylum? If the "mad at large" were obliged to exchange localities with the mad who are confined, society would be benefited.

The above may seem episodical; but I wish to impress upon the community that far too little attention has been paid to the just requirements of the insane within asylums. It has been supposed that the Superintendent and his subordinates were entirely competent to recognize and respond to all the wants of the insane in their charge.

The utter fallacy and absurdity of such a supposition ought to have become to all minds sufficiently apparent by the terrible developments recently brought to light by the faithful Investigating Committee, when the law sent them to make explorations upon hitherto disputed territory. The notice of Dorothy Dix, in Mr. Kirkbride's book, seemed to have been silenced since those investigations. Those important questions thus evolved have not all been answered. The Committee is still engaged before a thinking and a querying age. It has been discovered that lunatics are human beings. Many of them are men and women of large possessions and business blocks. And those who contend that lunatics ought not be allowed to write while confined to asylums, on the ground that they are incompetent, they would stop, had they the power, the car of Human Progress, and drag it back again to an age of barbarism.

The writer has heard the earnest and tearful appeals of an affectionate wife to be permitted to write to her own husband, and has been painfully distressed to see a man, styled a Superintendent, deny her the privilege of writing. The contempt with which such husband who thus blindly abandoned his own prerogative of protection, chief delegated another man as the chosen recipient of her confidence, is inexpressible.

I therefore hope those honorable gentlemen to whom this bill is presented will view this subject in its just light; that they will not hastily "lay upon the table" and pigeon-hole this good and humanity of which must commend itself to every thinking and unprejudiced mind.

SOPHIA B. OLBES.

CHICAGO, Feb. 10.

THE NORTHWEST.

ILLINOIS.

Willard Keyes, one of the founders of Quincy, is dead.

The peach buds about Peoria have been injured by the cold weather, but apples, cherries and pears escaped.

--The Illinois River is completely frozen over between Henry and LaSalle, and the fish are so much troubled thereby that they are literally pushing each other out of the water, at the mouth of Spring Creek, where there is an opening.

--A Leap Year party recently occurred in Sandoval, and notices were posted in the dancing hall warning the young woman asking a lady to dance during the evening shall incur a fine of $5 thereby. Leap Year!"

--The Dundee *Weekly* of Tuesday appears in mourning, and its contents will prove quite interesting to the people of that town. The announcement is made that six newspapers have been starved to death there, and that Dundee is a Chicago, burned into a crust by the fires of misery.

IOWA.

On Monday last, two Irishmen, near State Centre, were digging a well, when, down at the depth of sixty feet, such was the remarkable temperature that they were both sun-struck!

Even if these thoughts are absurd, or erroneous, or false, if you please, I wish to inquire if all the world's absurdities, follies, and falsehoods are confined to the walls of a lunatic asylum? If the "mad at large" were obliged to exchange localities with the mad who are confined, society would be benefited.

The above may seem episodical; but I wish to impress upon the community that far too little attention has been paid to the just requirements of the insane within asylums. It has been supposed that the Superintendent and his subordinates were entirely competent to recognize and respond to all the wants of the insane in their charge.

The utter fallacy and absurdity of such a supposition ought to have become to all minds sufficiently apparent by the terrible developments recently brought to light by the faithful Investigating Committee, when the law sent them to make explorations upon hitherto disputed territory. The notice of Dorothy Dix, in Mr. Kirkbride's book, seemed to have been silenced since those investigations. Those important questions thus evolved have not all been answered. The Committee is still engaged before a thinking and a querying age. It has been discovered that lunatics are human beings. Many of them are men and women of large possessions and business blocks. And those who contend that lunatics ought not be allowed to write while confined to asylums, on the ground that they are incompetent, they would stop, had they the power, the car of Human Progress, and drag it back again to an age of barbarism.

The writer has heard the earnest and tearful appeals of an affectionate wife to be permitted to write to her own husband, and has been painfully distressed to see a man, styled a Superintendent, deny her the privilege of writing. The contempt with which such husband who thus blindly abandoned his own prerogative of protection, chief delegated another man as the chosen recipient of her confidence, is inexpressible.

I therefore hope those honorable gentlemen to whom this bill is presented will view this subject in its just light; that they will not hastily "lay upon the table" and pigeon-hole this good and humanity of which must commend itself to every thinking and unprejudiced mind.

SOPHIA B. OLBES.

THE NEW TEMPERANCE LAW.

Its Strong and Weak Points Discussed by Rev. Dr. Fowler.

He Insists Upon Its Enforcement, Even at the Point of the Bayonet.

The Centenary Methodist Church, Monroe street, near Morgan, was crowded last evening to hear the Rev. Dr. Fowler speak upon the new Temperance law. So great was the interest felt in the subject that all the standing room was occupied, and hundreds went away without even being able to gain admission.

DR. FOWLER

took as his text the familiar passage from Proverbs, "Look not upon the wine," etc. He said that we had been discussing for a long time the different phases of the temperance questions. The real difficulty had just been arrived at. If his auditors would only put in practice the doctrines of the text, it would prove a certain remedy for the evil of intemperance. That was

GOD'S SUGGESTION

in reference to the cure. A little child might tell very distinctly and definitely when it was sick, and the very best physician might utterly fail in the prescription. The pars of the subject we have been over has been all right. Now we were approaching the debatable question of the proper care for the evil. The giant nature of the evil was spoken of, and its immense influence illustrated. A few of the distinctive features of

THE NEW TEMPERANCE LAW

were read, discussed, and commended. The strong points of the law were that it made the rum-seller secure a license, for the purpose of holding him directly responsible for the damages caused by his traffic. It makes as the basis of security for the damages the real estate of the liquor-dealer, and the owner of the property in which the business is carried on. Each point was briefly argued as given.

POLICIES ADVISED.

The various policies advised by various parties, to be pursued in the premises, were noted. Some adopt the do-nothing policy. The futility and weakness of this was happily illustrated by many examples. Reform means courage, boldness, exposure, and a general taking up of arms against the common enemy. Some advise the use of milder stimulants to destroy the appetite for alcohol. Parents will allow their sons to drink wine, in order to keep them from stronger liquors. But this does not cure the habit.

Take France for example. Beside the wine consumed there, recent statistics show that 450,000,000 gallons of distilled spirits are used in that country. This is a gallon and a half annually to every man, woman, and child within her borders. Travellers who have only seen the wine drinking of France, have only half seen it. Brandy is the national beverage. Napoleon Bonaparte, the founder of the French Academy, gave similar testimony against his own people. So did Jules Simon, who quit office in disgust. So also did Count Arnim. So did Kirk had corroborated all that the others had said. What was true of France was true of

GREAT BRITAIN

a wine-growing State. More alcoholic liquors were consumed there than by any other portion of America equal in population.

GREAT BRITAIN

undertook to cure her people of the appetite for distilled spirits by taxation. She made them more freely. The experiment was a lamentable failure. During the last fifty years the sale of distilled liquors in that country has nearly doubled. Ten per cent. The plan of curing this evil by the substitution of milder stimulants would never work.

The Maine law, prohibition, in its present form would not stand the test of practice. As an evidence of the folly of this way of curing intemperance, Rev. Dr. Fowler said he had been more than 2,000 saloons in this city. Ten millions of money per year is expended for alcoholic poisons. The plan of prohibition has only reduced it 10 per cent. No advance in price, though such drink must soon come. Every brick in every new building lots near where so many tens of millions would be paid for labor, will advance the price of such property, and easy terms. ALBERT CRANE, 272 Wabash-av.

FOR SALE--TWO LOTS ON COTTAGE PLACE, near Thirty-first-st., 22x132. Price $1,500 each. Terms, one-third cash; balance $500 per year. GEORGE & HILL, 389 State-st.

FOR SALE--LOTS 44x200 (BEING QUARTER OF an acre each) on Milwaukee and Armitage-avs., only $500 each. Easy terms. W. G. COLE, 76½ Wabash-av.

FOR SALE--AT A GREAT BARGAIN--ON monthly payments, Lots, Houses, Farms, Timber, Market-st. House No. 280 First-st., on terms to suit. 102x118 feet at the corner of Mather and Desplaines-sts., for location for manufacturing. Inquire at 37 West Madison-st., in basement.

FOR SALE--50x136 ON COLLEGE-ST., FRONT-ing Union Park, with two-story and basement house; will be made easy to purchasers. Improved, at once. FRED. L. FAKE & CO., 140 Dearborn-av.

FOR SALE--MICHIGAN-AV., 81x202 FEET ON corner Thirty-eighth-st., on very easy terms. 100 feet on corner of Thirty-fourth-st. 100 feet on corner of Thirty-seventh-st. 150 feet on corner of Thirty-seventh-st. Desirable business and residence property in South Division a specialty. FRED. L. FAKE & CO., 140 Dearborn-av.

FOR SALE--THE VERY BEST RESIDENCE PLACE house No. 146 Thirty-first-st., 32x132 rooms, water, gas, and furnace, with good barn. Will be sold cheap, and terms easy. FRED. L. FAKE & CO., 140 Dearborn-av.

FOR SALE--LOTS ON FIVE YEARS' TIME AT 7 per cent interest. Purchasers building at once need not make first small cash payment. These lots are in the best locality of Douglas Place, Douglas Park, and just outside the fire limits. To mechanics and laboring men these offer inducements. FRED. L. FAKE & CO., 140 Michigan-av.

FOR SALE--THE NEW AND HANDSOMELY-built house Nos. 229 and 231 Thirtieth-st., between Michigan and Indiana-avs. Will be sold low. Terms can be made very easy. FRED. L. FAKE & CO., 140 Michigan-av.

FOR SALE--BRICK HOUSE, WITH ALL MOD-ern improvements, on Indiana-av.; lot, 25x165, 12-foot party property. Piano finish, rooms, water, gas, and pavement, east front; lot 25x180; $6,500; on Prairie-av. South Park-av. Lot, 50x165; and lot 50x200. H. WHIPPLE, 78 Canal-st., Room 8.

FOR SALE--ELLIS-AV., NEAR DOUGLAS place, 85x135, $6,000 cash, or $6,500 on time; one-third down, balance 2 years at 8 per cent. C. BARWICK, 473 Wabash-av.

FOR SALE--LINCOLN PARK LOTS, ONE of the handsomest and most desirable; $1,000 cash and cash advanced to build with; early application must be made to secure a lot on the above terms. ALDEN SPEARE, 79 Dearborn-st.

FOR SALE--LARGE LOT 80x132, NORTHEAST corner of Madison and Franklin-sts., in whole or in parts, on easy terms. Also, a lot on Jefferson-st., south of Madison-st. Inquire of WM. BORDEN, 274 East Madison-st.

FOR SALE--HOUSE AND LOT, NEAR TWEN-ty-second-st., at a bargain. Would take some trade. House first-class; modern improvements. S. DELA MATER, 79 Dearborn-st., room 6.

FOR SALE--LOTS FOR $500, NO MONEY DOWN, if improved immediately. Convenient to street cars and schools. J. F. STARR, 47 West Randolph-st.

FOR SALE--CHEAP, CORNER LOT, 106 FEET on Sangamon-st., 132 feet on Randolph-st., fronting on Park. ROZET & ELLIS, 379 Wabash-av.

FOR SALE--SEVERAL DESIRABLE RESI-dences, on Indiana-av., between Twenty-first and Prairie and Calumet-avs. ROZET & ELLIS, 379 Wabash-av.

FOR SALE--TWO CHOICE RESIDENCE LOTS on Superior-st., between Cass and Rush-sts., fronting south. ROZET & ELLIS, 379 Wabash-av.

SUBURBAN REAL ESTATE.

FOR SALE "MAPLEWOOD," FOUR MILES from Court House, adjoining old city limits; accessed by steam cars. Communication, ten minutes. Lots for sale on easy payments. No cash payment required of parties making improvements. The property is ornamented with several thousand evergreens and maples. The artesian well is flowing at the rate of 250 gallons per minute of splendid water, free from sulphur or other deleterious substances. The land is high and dry. Sidewalks have been laid. Parties purchasing lots of me will receive a deed at once. The improvement cannot be found in any other location in or around Chicago. H. WHIPPLE, 78 Canal-st., Room 8.

FOR SALE--IN HINSDALE, 13 MILES FROM Chicago, one block, 32 acres, $1,000. One block, 44 acres, $1,400. One block, 8 acres, $1,000. Will make the country homes. ALDEN SPEARE & CO., 79 Dearborn-st.

FOR SALE--$200, ONLY $50 DOWN, BALANCE at 6 per cent interest. I am authorized by owner to sell for next 10 days lots in the village of Jefferson, 7 miles from Court House. Trains every hour; season-ticket fare 7c; lots 2 minutes' walk from depot. Best bargain you can make either as an improvement or for an investment. A. G. STOREY, 44 Green-st.

COUNTRY REAL ESTATE.

FOR SALE--OR EXCHANGE--BY C. C. THAYER & CO., 130 Michigan-av., corner of Jackson-st. In Bond County, Ill.--Farm of 320 acres, finely improved.

DeKalb County, Ill.--Improved farm of 400 acres. Whiteside County, Ill.--Farm of 220 acres, well improved.

Iroquois County, Ill.--Several finely improved farms in this county, 120, 320, and 640 acres each.

Perry County, Ill.--Splendid farm of 80 acres, highly improved.

Macon County, Ill.--Near the flourishing town of Bloomington, a farm of 160 acres, in a high state of cultivation.

Also other farms, improved and unimproved.

FOR SALE--TWENTY ACRES STRAWBERRY land, within 17 miles of Chicago, suitable for any kind of farming or stock raising. Has a good orchard and good buildings, 25 acres of land to be leased for three or four years. Call on HENRY C. COOK, Room 1, 79 South Canal-st.

FOR SALE--ONE OF THE BEST PAYING fruit farms in Michigan, 1 mile from Muskegon; sells $2,000 worth of strawberries alone; have two acres of it and extend both. Address T. ARMstrong, Muskegon, Mich.

FOR SALE--24 MILES FROM LITCHFIELD, Montgomery County, 320 acres, 3 hard maple timber; good barn and house; good well and spring water; orchard of 2 acres; well fenced in 2 acre lots. Address owner, or apply to W. H. MARVIN & CO., 52 Dearborn-st., Room 10.

REAL ESTATE WANTED.

WANTED -- WITHIN TWO AND A HALF miles of old Post Office, a house and lot, worth about $10,000; one that can be bought for one half cash and balance on long time with interest at 7 per cent. Address, giving location and size of lot, N 58, Tribune office.

WANTED--BUSINESS PROPERTY IN BURNT district, from $60,000 to $90,000 in value. Will make exchange for first-class farms, or will take drawing per cent interest in gold, 1,000 or 2,000 acres of first-class farming land, and some cash. C. C. THAYER & CO., 130 Michigan-av., corner of Jackson-st.

WANTED--A HOUSE NEAR UNION PARK worth $6,000. Will give in exchange a lot on Michigan-av., worth $6,000, and pay the balance. ALBERT H. WALKER, 67 Chamber of Union block.

SEWING MACHINES.

SINGER SEWING MACHINES--OFFICE OF C. B. NICHOLS, No. 144 South Halsted-st. Machines sold on monthly installments, and sewing given when required.

WEED SEWING MACHINE OFFICE OF J. E. SHAW, 111 South Halsted-st. Machines sold or rented on easy monthly payments.

BUSINESS CHANCES.

A NEW STORE FOR SALE--TWO STORIES, with stock of hardware, in a thriving town (county seat) on the line of the Illinois Southern Railroad. Inquire of Messrs. HIBBARD & SPENCER.

A WELL ESTABLISHED GOOD-PAYING JEW-elry business in Kansas City for sale. The stock about $8,000. Satisfactory reasons given for selling. For particulars address Box 74, Kansas City, Mo.

A FINE STOCK OF DRY GOODS IN THE CITY of Rockford, Ill., for sale or to rent. One of the best location in the city; 30x80 feet; counters, shelving, etc., and all in good order. For particulars address GEORGE SMITH, Rockford, Ill.

A FIRST-CLASS WHOLESALE AND RETAIL confectionery, with a large custom, for sale. Address O 23, Tribune office.

BRICK YARD FOR SALE CHEAP, ALL COM-plete for 5,000,000 per season; location in city. Good trade in every particular. Address H 97, Tribune office.

FOUNDRY FOR SALE--PART OR ALL OF A small foundery; full of business; paying well; best location in city; reason for selling satisfactory as planned. Address U 57, Tribune office.

FOR SALE--AT A BARGAIN--A FINE SAM-ple room, with or without furniture; three-story brick house, 6 rooms, with gas and water; $30 rents a month. Inquire at